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Sixty-seventh session
Item 121 (u) of the preliminary list*
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Letter dated 25 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the "Declaration of the Heads of State of the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on building a region of lasting peace and common prosperity", which was signed by the Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan at the meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Beijing on 7 June 2012 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 121 (u) of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Talaibek **Kydyrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic

* A/67/50.

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Annex to the letter dated 25 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Declaration by the Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on building a region of lasting peace and common prosperity

The Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter "SCO" or "the Organization") held a meeting of the Council of Heads of State in Beijing from 6 to 7 June 2012.

The Heads of State note that the system of international relations has been undergoing complex changes in the twenty-first century, with the development of a multipolar world, stronger regional cooperation, globalization and growing interdependence among States, and a larger role for information technology.

It is imperative for the international community to meet global challenges through effective and concerted action. The global economic situation remains complex and is characterized by instability and uncertainty. The risk of another large-scale economic and financial crisis remains and the problems of terrorism, narcotics trafficking, transnational crime, development imbalance, food shortages, climate change and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as the threat of local and regional conflicts persist.

Reflecting the common aspirations of the people of its member States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has continued to work effectively to promote peace, cooperation and development. By upholding in practice the principles of the "Shanghai spirit" — mutual trust, mutual advantage, equality, joint consultations, respect for cultural diversity and the desire for joint development — it has helped to develop an effective model of friendly and cooperative relations among States.

Through the unified efforts of its member States, the Organization has become a guarantor of peace and sustainable development, ensuring security, stability and development in the region, firmly countering terrorism, separatism, extremism, narcotics trafficking and transnational organized crime, and strengthening regional cooperation by fostering relations based on good-neighbourliness and trust.

The member States engage in ongoing efforts to enhance mutual trust in military activities in border areas and take the necessary measures to avoid border disputes and safeguard peace, tranquillity and stability.

The member States will further strengthen cooperation within the SCO framework in order to take it to the next level and transform the region into one of lasting peace, friendship, prosperity and harmony.

In that connection, the heads of State declare the following:

I

The member States call on the international community to engage in peaceful co-existence and dialogue between civilizations, seek understanding, promote shared sustainable development and respect for national traditions and cultural values, and strengthen relations between States on the basis of universally recognized norms and principles of international law.

The member States will further develop and deepen their relations in strict compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Treaty on Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation among SCO member States and the other international instruments to which they have acceded.

The relations among member States are based on mutual respect for State sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, independent choice of social system and development path, and non-interference in one another's internal affairs. Member States support one another in maintaining domestic stability and promoting economic growth.

No member State shall join any alliance or group of countries opposed to other member States and every effort shall be made to address issues that arise between member States or between members and other countries through political and diplomatic means consistent with international law.

II

The member States share the view that it is necessary to promote a new approach to security in international relations based on mutual trust, mutual advantage, equality and cooperation and to make the world an indivisible security space that takes into account the interests of all States without exception.

The unilateral and unlimited development of ballistic missile defence by one State or a group of States could damage international security and strategic stability. The related issues must be resolved by all the countries concerned through political and diplomatic efforts. The member States firmly believe that one country cannot pursue its own security at the expense of others' security.

The member States advocate building a world free of nuclear weapons and strictly comply with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. SCO calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to sign the relevant protocols to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and take steps towards its actual establishment.

The member States are in favour of ensuring the security of outer space activities and the use of outer space for peaceful purposes and preventing the placement of weapons in outer space. They support the development of a draft treaty prohibiting the placement of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against assets in outer space and the development and international implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures on outer space activities.

The member States will work to build a peaceful, secure, fair and open information space based on the principles of respect for State sovereignty and

non-interference in the internal affairs of others. They will oppose the use of information and communications technology for the purpose of undermining the political, economic and social security of member States and will prevent the use of the Internet to propagate terrorist, extremist or separatist ideologies.

III

The member States are of the view that regional issues should be addressed through consultations among the countries of the region and international organizations. The specific forms and mechanisms for cooperation to maintain regional security and stability should be determined by the countries of that region.

In the event of a situation that threatens the peace, stability and security of a member State of the SCO or the entire region, the member States shall, in accordance with the relevant documents of the Organization, take political and diplomatic measures to deal with the situation in a timely and appropriate manner.

The member States will continue to step up bilateral and multilateral cooperation to jointly combat terrorism, separatism and extremism, illicit trafficking in drugs and weapons and other transnational criminal activities, address illegal migration and meet new threats and challenges in other security fields.

The member States support the efforts to make Afghanistan an independent, neutral, peaceful, prosperous country free of terrorism and drug-related crime. They are of the view that the national reconciliation process in Afghanistan should be Afghan-led and Afghan-owned. The member States support the central role of the United Nations in coordinating international efforts on the issue of Afghanistan and will assist the Afghan people with their national reconstruction. In that connection, the member States decide to grant Afghanistan observer status in SCO.

The member States express deep concern over the situation in the Middle East and North Africa and sincerely hope to see peace, stability, prosperity and progress in the region. They call on the international community to respect the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, respect the independent choice of the countries and peoples of the region, and work to ease regional tensions. The SCO member States are opposed to armed intervention in the affairs of the region, forced regime change and unilateral sanctions.

The SCO member States underline that all forms of violence in the Syrian Arab Republic, whatever their source, must cease. They support broad-based domestic dialogue that respects the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic. They welcome the political mediation efforts approved by the United Nations Security Council to resolve the crisis and believe that a peaceful solution to the Syrian issue through political dialogue serves the common interests of the Syrian people and the international community.

The member States express deep concern over the developments surrounding the Islamic Republic of Iran, an SCO observer. They consider that any attempt to resolve the Iranian issue by force is unacceptable and will have unpredictable consequences that will threaten the stability and security of the region and the entire world. They call on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and avoid statements or actions which might lead to further confrontation.

The member States are of the view that all countries should abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental norms of international law. They are in favour of strict implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. They support the launching of sustained dialogue between the "E3 + 3" group of countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran with the aim of finding a political and diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and talks among the relevant parties. The member States expect the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a responsible member of the international community, to play an important role in maintaining peace and prosperity.

IV

The member States, governed by national priorities for social and economic development, intend to engage in consistent and mutually supportive efforts to enhance their economic potential through modernized and innovative growth and intensify experience sharing and business contacts.

The member States maintain that economic globalization should be conducive to balanced, mutually advantageous, fair, effective and non-discriminatory trade relations that benefit all countries.

The member States will further contribute to the international community's collective efforts to mitigate the impact of the global economic and financial crisis and achieve the sustainable growth of the world economy.

The member States will deepen and improve mutually beneficial regional economic cooperation, promote an enabling environment for trade and investment, and undertake large-scale joint investment projects, including by tapping into the potential of observer States and dialogue partners.

The member States agree on the need to promote further cooperation in border areas and neighbouring regions in order to increase contacts with a view to sharing the benefits of economic development.

The member States will make efforts to safeguard energy security in the SCO region.

The member States attach great importance to developing transportation infrastructure that connects Asia with Europe, building appropriate international transport corridors and improving the efficiency of linkages between different modes of transport. They will continue to strengthen cooperation to accomplish these tasks.

In accordance with their national legislation and relevant international obligations, the member States shall protect the social and economic rights and interests of citizens of other member States residing within their borders.

V

The successful development of the SCO region requires world peace, security and stability, and unremitting efforts to establish an equitable and democratic international order.

The United Nations should play a leading role in upholding international peace and security, promoting common constructive development and enhancing mutually beneficial international cooperation. The SCO member States reaffirm their support for United Nations reform aimed at improving its efficiency and strengthening its capacity for timely and effective response to challenges and threats.

The relevant States should continue consultations to seek a comprehensive solution to the issue of United Nations Security Council reform that takes into account various interests and concerns and enables the broadest possible consensus. In order to maintain unity among United Nations Member States, artificial time limits should not be set for the negotiation process and drafts should not be submitted prematurely for discussion, including those that take a piecemeal approach to the negotiation process and do not currently have the support of the overwhelming majority of Member States.

The member States intend to devote attention to further developing friendly ties and productive cooperation with SCO observer States and dialogue partners and with international and regional organizations that have signed the relevant documents with SCO. They will continue to engage in dialogue with other organizations and entities that share the fundamental aims and principles of SCO.

The member States note with satisfaction the international community's increasing interest in establishing ties with SCO and welcome the participation of the Republic of Turkey in cooperation within the SCO framework as a dialogue partner.

VI

The member States emphasize that SCO, guided by the "Shanghai spirit" and as an important entity and constructive force in international relations, has become a model of inter-State and regional cooperation in the twenty-first century.

The member States, building on the friendship, partnership and harmony in the region, will continue to strengthen peace, justice and democracy, lay the foundations for polycentrity throughout the world and promote progress and prosperity for all States and for humankind as a whole.

(*Signed*) Nursultan A. **Nazarbayev**
President
Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) **Hu** Jintao
President
People's Republic of China

(*Signed*) Almazbek S. **Atambayev**
President
Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*) Vladimir V. **Putin**
President
Russian Federation

(*Signed*) Emomali **Rahmon**
President
Republic of Tajikistan

(*Signed*) Islam A. **Karimov**
President
Republic of Uzbekistan

Beijing, 7 June 2012

United Nations A/67/112

General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Item 96 (f) of the preliminary list*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific during the period from July 2011 to June 2012. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre continued to promote dialogue and confidence-building among all stakeholders by organizing annual United Nations conferences on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, which served as important forums in which to assess progress achieved in those fields and to discuss the way forward. The Regional Centre also undertook several field projects to build the capacity of States to combat illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and to promote peace and disarmament through education. The Regional Centre also made substantive contributions to several regional disarmament-related forums.

The Regional Centre strengthened its outreach and advocacy activities and expanded its partnerships and interactions with various stakeholders in the region and beyond. With support from Member States and other partners, the Regional Centre is positioned to further expand its programmes aimed at providing assistance to Member States in the region to address challenges in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation.

* A/67/50.

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The Regional Centre depends solely on voluntary financial contributions to implement its programmatic activities. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to Member States, including the host country, Nepal, and other partners that supported the Centre's operations and programmes with financial contributions and calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Centre to ensure the sustainability of its activities and operation and to assist in fulfilling the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/39 D, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific is mandated to provide, on request, substantive support for initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament through the appropriate utilization of available resources. The Regional Centre facilitates and coordinates the implementation of regional activities of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in the Asia-Pacific region.

2. By its resolution 66/56, the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction for the activities carried out by the Regional Centre in the past year and expressed its gratitude to the Government of the host country, Nepal, for its cooperation and financial support. The Assembly reaffirmed its strong support for the role of the Centre in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional level to strengthen peace, stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution.

3. The present report is submitted in compliance with the above-mentioned request and covers the activities of the Regional Centre during the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre for the second year of the biennium 2010-2011 is contained in the annex.

II. Activities of the Regional Centre

4. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre focused its programmatic activities on the following areas: promoting the implementation of global disarmament and non-proliferation instruments; enhancing regional dialogue and confidence-building in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and regional security; and outreach and advocacy.

A. Promoting the implementation of global disarmament and non-proliferation instruments

5. From 12 to 17 September 2011, the Regional Centre organized a national training course on combating illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in Kathmandu, co-hosted by the Government of Nepal and with the financial support of the Government of Japan and the Tokyo Club, a Japanese non-governmental organization. The training was aimed at enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officers in Nepal to combat illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. A total of 25 mid-level law enforcement officers from the Nepal Police, the Armed Police Force and the Department of Customs of Nepal participated in the training. Various training modules were conducted by both international and national trainers, including trainers from the Bonn International Center for Conversion, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Customs Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). The training succeeded in strengthening the capacity of the law enforcement officials by

enhancing their knowledge and expertise in key issues related to combating illicit trade in small arms. Those issues included basic concepts; international instruments and normative frameworks; challenges related to Nepal; impact on women; regional cooperation to combat illicit trade and cross-border smuggling; and stockpile management, destruction, marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons.

6. The Regional Centre contributed substantively to a Pacific regional workshop on small arms and light weapons and the arms trade treaty, held in Brisbane, Australia, from 29 February to 2 March 2012. Jointly organized by the Government of Australia, the Pacific Islands Forum and Oxfam Australia, participants of the workshop discussed issues related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in the South Pacific context, identified ways to enhance the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in the subregion and considered a common subregional position in preparation for the arms trade treaty negotiations.

7. To promote the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Regional Centre substantively supported a regional meeting of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs on the implementation of the Programme of Action in Asian countries, held in Bali, Indonesia, on 5 and 6 March 2012. The meeting brought together States in the Asian region to review and advance the implementation of the Programme of Action at the regional level and to contribute to the broad-based consultation process for the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to be held in 2012.

8. The Regional Centre also made substantive contributions to a subregional workshop and study visit on illicit small arms and light weapons and unexploded ordnance control held in Phnom Penh, from 27 to 30 March 2012. The participants at the workshop, which was organized by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), considered and identified ways to reduce illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, improve national coordination and enhance the sharing of knowledge and information on combating illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and controlling unexploded ordnance among the defence and national police agencies of ASEAN member States.

9. The Regional Centre continued its efforts to address challenges posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in Nepal through its substantive and logistical support to the activities of the Nepal Working Group on Armed Violence Reduction.[1] The Working Group continued to hold quarterly meetings, which provided a platform for information-sharing among Government officials, national and international civil society organizations and United Nations agencies on issues concerning this illicit trade.

[1] The Working Group was established by the Regional Centre, together with the South Asia Regional Office of the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Mine Action Service-Nepal, in July 2010. In December 2011, the Working Group changed its name from the Nepal Working Group on Small Arms and Other Portable Lethal Weapons to the Nepal Working Group on Armed Violence Reduction.

10. To promote the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008), on the role of women in peacebuilding and on ending conflict-related sexual violence, respectively, the Regional Centre supported the Peace Support Working Group for Nepal in its efforts to promote the implementation of the National Action Plan on resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) adopted by the Government of Nepal.

B. Promoting dialogue and confidence in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and security

11. The Regional Centre organized the two annual conferences on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, which served as important forums for Government officials, experts and representatives of academia and civil society to engage in frank discussions and to explore solutions to the challenges in those areas.

12. In collaboration with the Government of Japan and the City of Matsumoto, the Regional Centre organized the twenty-third United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, on the theme "Urgent and united action towards a nuclear-weapon-free world", which was held in Matsumoto from 27 to 29 July 2011.

13. The participants of the Conference took stock of the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as individual and collective efforts in fulfilling the commitments reflected in its conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions, including the importance of convening a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. In the context of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, participants discussed future steps on nuclear disarmament to be taken by all nuclear-weapon States, as well as aspects of a future nuclear weapons convention. Participants also discussed possible ways to overcome the deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament and start negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty. The implications of the incident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in March 2011 and the importance of the Nuclear Security Summit held in Seoul in 2012 were also addressed. Many participants emphasized the important role played by civil society in global awareness-raising, the promotion of transparency, the creation of momentum, and democratic legitimacy in disarmament efforts.

14. For the first time as part of the agenda of the Conference, a special session on peace and disarmament was held with the participation of more than 150 students from nine Matsumoto high schools. The students deliberated issues related to peace and disarmament, with several Conference participants acting as panellists and providing feedback. The proactive student participation demonstrated the significance of disarmament education and its impact on the general public, in particular young people. It is noteworthy that, in hosting the Conference, the City of Matsumoto and its citizens, with the support of over 100 volunteers, organized more than 20 side events, including concerts, exhibitions and poetry contests.

15. The year 2011 marked the tenth anniversary of the United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues, also known as the Jeju Process on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The Regional Centre, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of

Korea, organized the tenth Joint Conference in Jeju on 7 and 8 November 2011. More than 70 representatives of Governments and intergovernmental organizations and experts from policy institutes, academia and other civil society organizations participated in frank and interactive discussions.

16. Under the overall theme "Past and future of disarmament and non-proliferation", participants reviewed the past decade of disarmament and non-proliferation, including the successes achieved as well as the setbacks suffered, and recognized the meaningful contribution made by the past nine annual Conferences to global and regional efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation. The participants discussed the importance, challenges and expected outcome of the Nuclear Security Summit, held in Seoul in 2012. Regarding the nuclear issue concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, participants noted the importance of resuming the Six-Party Talks while acknowledging the substantive challenges associated with this. With regard to conventional arms control, participants underlined the importance of an arms trade treaty. They also addressed the issue of conventional arms control on the Korean Peninsula.

C. Partnership, outreach and advocacy

17. The Regional Centre contributed substantively to the organization of a student presentation on international issues held in Saitama, Japan, on 30 August 2011. The event was organized by the City of Saitama, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Japan Model United Nations, with the aim of promoting disarmament education, in accordance with the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (A/57/124). The event included the presentation of concrete proposals on disarmament from 40 students from high schools in Saitama and an exchange of views on those proposals with a panel consisting of senior representatives from the Regional Centre, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and non-governmental organizations. The success of the event demonstrated the potential for enhancing cooperation between local governments and the United Nations in promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education.

18. From June to December 2011, the Regional Centre successfully piloted a project in the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal on peace education and outreach entitled "Volunteers for peace education", in collaboration with the Department of Conflict, Peace and Development Studies of Tribhuvan University and the Nepalese non-governmental organization DidiBahini and with the support of the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Volunteers. The project included training volunteer youth trainers, conducting workshops at six public schools and organizing short-story and poetry contests. Through the pilot project, the Regional Centre succeeded in raising awareness of peace and non-violent conflict resolution among more than 200 students; trained and empowered 14 youth volunteer trainers who will continue to carry out the work; and demonstrated the potential of volunteerism to contribute to peace education. The blueprint of the project could be replicated in other post-conflict settings.

19. The Regional Centre continued its efforts to strengthen partnerships with key regional stakeholders, including Member States, regional and subregional organizations, other United Nations entities and civil society through enhanced information-sharing and dialogue, as well as joint initiatives and projects.

20. In this context, the Regional Centre enhanced its partnerships with regional and other intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Asian Development Bank, the Pacific Islands Forum, the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL, as with other United Nations agencies, such as UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The Regional Centre expanded its outreach activities to include academic institutions and regional non-governmental organizations. Efforts are under way to explore joint initiatives and projects on peace and disarmament-related issues with relevant and interested entities in the region.

21. As part of its outreach efforts, the Regional Centre continued to regularly distribute its newsletter and upgraded its website (www.unrcpd.org.np) to ensure the regular provision of accurate information about its work and to broaden its engagement with current and potential stakeholders.

D. Future activities

22. While continuing its regular activities, which include annual conferences, workshops and outreach and advocacy activities, the Regional Centre plans to expand its efforts to provide practical assistance to States in the region, upon their request, in the areas of capacity-building, technical assistance and training on such challenges as illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. It will continue to enhance efforts to pair identified needs for such assistance with available resources and projects.

23. Combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is one of the priorities for many countries in the region. To address this important topic, the Regional Centre will adapt the highly successful Inter-Institutional Training Course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives pioneered by the Regional Centre in Latin America and the Caribbean to the specific situation and needs of the Asia-Pacific region.

24. To support international efforts in preventing non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, in particular for terrorist purposes, as embodied in Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Regional Centre stands ready to engage stakeholders in the region, in particular the Member States, to assist with their efforts to implement the resolution, including through awareness-raising and capacity-building.

III. Staffing and financing

25. In February 2012, a new Director of the Regional Centre was appointed. The Director is currently supported by one Professional (P-3) and one General Service (G-7) staff funded from the regular budget. The host country, Nepal, through its

voluntary contribution, provided two local support staff, and Switzerland provided a United Nations Volunteer intern to the Regional Centre. The Regional Centre continues to rely on voluntary contributions for all its substantive programmes and for part of its operating costs.

26. In 2011, voluntary contributions in the amount of $350,042 were received from Member States and other donors. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Member States and civil society organizations that have made financial and in-kind contributions to the Regional Centre, including China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Thailand and Turkey, as well as two Japanese non-governmental organizations, Rissho Kosei-kai and the Tokyo Club. Those financial and in-kind contributions remain essential to ensuring the sustainability of the operations, core activities and programmes of the Regional Centre. The Secretary-General urges all Member States, in particular those from the region, and other donors to provide financial resources in support of the Centre's programmes, which benefit the Asia-Pacific region.

IV. Conclusion

27. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre actively engaged in and supported peace and disarmament initiatives in the region. Working with Member States and other stakeholders, it continued to fulfil its mandate to provide assistance, upon request, to Member States and conduct outreach and advocacy activities. The Centre will continue to expand its activities as feasible, identifying new and innovative modalities to provide support to Member States in the region. The two annual conferences held in Japan and the Republic of Korea continue to serve as important forums to promote dialogue and confidence-building in the areas of disarmament, non-proliferation and security. The Regional Centre stands ready to enhance and expand the level of assistance that it provides to Member States in addressing the challenges they face in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation.

28. The Secretary-General reiterates his call to Member States and other partners in a position to do so to provide the Regional Centre with the financial and in-kind support necessary to ensure that it will be able to continue to carry out its mandate effectively and serve the needs of Member States in the region.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for 2011

(United States dollars)

Reserves and fund balance, 1 January 2011	565 237
Income	
Voluntary contributions	350 042
Interest income	11 305
Other/miscellaneous income	—
Total income	**361 347**
Expenditure	181 474
Programme support costs	23 061
Total expenditure	**204 535**
Reserves and fund balance, 31 December 2011	**722 049**

Note: The information is based on the statement of income and expenditure for 2011. During the period under review, contributions totalling $350,042 were received from China ($50,000), Kazakhstan ($10,000), Nepal ($88,697), Pakistan ($4,988), the Republic of Korea ($150,000), Switzerland ($21,720), Thailand ($3,000), Turkey ($10,000) and the Tokyo Club ($11,637).

During the period 1 January to 31 May 2012, an additional contribution in the amount of $3,000 was received from Thailand.

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Sixty-seventh session
Item 95 (bb) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Progress made on the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, 10 years following its adoption

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/67/50.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 29 of resolution 65/64, entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", the General Assembly invited Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the progress made on the implementation of the Programme of Action, 10 years following its adoption, and requested the Secretary-General to present a report containing that information as an input to the 2012 review conference.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 15 June 2011, the Secretariat sent a note verbale to Member States requesting their views on the subject. As of the writing of the present report, replies have been received from the following seven States: Germany, Iraq, Japan, Norway, Qatar, Romania and Thailand. The replies are reproduced in section II, below.

II. Replies received from Member States

Germany

[Original: English]
[5 March 2012]

Small arms and light weapons are the main instrument of lethal armed violence worldwide. The uncontrolled proliferation of such arms and weapons fuels conflicts and contributes to the escalation of tensions. The illicit possession, use, manufacturing and trade of such arms and weapons are inseparably linked to criminal violence, gang violence and organized crime. Therefore, controlling small arms and light weapons is indispensable for an orderly State governed by rule of law, and a crucial factor in the fight against crime. As small arms and light weapons are regularly ubiquitous in the aftermath of armed conflicts, controlling such arms and weapons is also a necessary element of systematic crisis prevention and a cornerstone of post-conflict stabilization. Such stabilization requires comprehensive security sector reforms, including weapons programmes intended for civilians, to accompany a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process for ex-combatants.

In the 10 years of its existence, the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects has provided the tools to control the proliferation and illicit use and trafficking of such arms and weapons and is the international reference instrument on the issue. Germany supports the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels.

The Programme of Action has contributed to a global awareness of the risks of uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Several new international norms with the objective of facilitating and enhancing the control of such arms and weapons have been agreed after the adoption of the Programme of Action. The International Tracing Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (International Tracing Instrument) has set the framework for standards in the marking, registration and tracing of small arms and light weapons. In particular,

regional initiatives such as the European Union strategy on small arms and light weapons, the Small Arms Control Programme of the Economic Community of West African States or the Regional Centre on Small Arms in Eastern Africa have complemented the global framework set by the Programme of Action. On the fourth biannual meeting of States, held in 2010, progress in different fields could be observed, namely, regional cooperation was identified as a crucial element in combating illicit cross-border arms trafficking.

Since 2001, many States have established national points of contact, small arms commissions and relevant authorities for small arms control, in particular in regions heavily affected by weapons proliferation, for example, in some parts of Africa.

Disarmament procedures regarding surplus weapons and ammunition in post-conflict situations or stemming from police and military stocks have been gaining effectiveness. Reporting has been improved thanks to the provision of templates. Germany has supported the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in establishing a platform for information exchange on small arms and light weapons with the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, allowing for a comprehensive orientation with regard to the international framework. Moreover, with the publication entitled "Matching needs and resources", the Office has created a clearing mechanism for donors and recipient countries regarding small arms and light weapons cooperation projects.

The relationship between armed violence, underdevelopment and the proliferation of illicit weapons has been increasingly recognized. One of the documents giving proof of and at the same time contributing to that awareness is the 2006 Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development. Armed violence is a major obstacle to development and hinders economic and social progress.

However, the Programme of Action has not been implemented on an equal level worldwide. A 2011 study by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, funded by Germany, identified various obstacles and challenges in the implementation of the Programme of Action. Technical insufficiencies and a lack of funding were among the difficulties mentioned by several participants of the study. A lack of cross-border communication and cooperation in neighbouring States was another example. It will be crucial to address those challenges during the review conference of the Programme of Action, to be held in August and September 2012.

Verification of the Programme of Action is another challenge. Not all States submit their reports in a timely and regular manner. There is a lack of follow-up mechanisms to track the effectiveness of national implementation efforts. What are needed are instruments to measure further implementation success, including benchmarks. Also, implementation efforts should be more focused, with clear and well-defined objectives, time frames and priorities.

Therefore, a follow-up mechanism and a regular review process will continue to be of utmost importance. Biannual meetings of States should focus on implementation successes as well as deficits and allow for an evolution of the Programme of Action on the basis of lessons learned.

Germany would like to stress the points below regarding the substantive matters of the Programme of Action.

The control of ammunition and munitions should be an integral part of the efforts to control small arms and light weapons and to implement the Programme of Action. Munitions pose a risk as their deterioration can lead to uncontrolled explosions or environmental contamination. Moreover, the effective control of ammunition will have a fast and noticeable impact on the control of small arms as the latter cannot be operated without the former.

Germany encourages regional organizations to play an enhanced role in the implementation of the Programme of Action. Regional organizations can and should support their member States more systematically in implementing the Programme of Action, thus promoting cooperation and information exchange, which is crucial for border control, the tracing of arms and the fight against arms smuggling and organized crime.

Germany believes there is room to enhance the role of women in the security sector, including in the field of small arms control. In its resolution 1325 (2000), the Security Council reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding; and urges States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict. Germany sees in particular an increased role for women in the field of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

Germany underlines the role of the United Nations bodies and institutions against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. It values the coordinating role of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. It appreciates the clearing mechanism established by the publication entitled "Matching needs and resources" and encourages States to contribute as donors and recipients by defining and updating the project list. Germany coordinates the Group of Interested States and encourages other States to take a leading role.

Germany supports in particular the provisions of the Programme of Action regarding international assistance. It believes that the control of small arms and light weapons can play a critical role in the stabilization of post-conflict situations and is at the same time an important element of crisis prevention. Against this background, Germany has increased its relevant assistance and focused on post-conflict States, mainly in Africa.

Germany encourages States to report to the United Nations arms register, including in the category on small arms and light weapons. Germany would support the idea of a mandatory reporting mechanism for small arms and light weapons as an additional category of the register, as it believes small arms and light weapons are the main cause of instability in many parts of the world, often exceeding heavy weaponry as a challenge to stability.

At the second review conference of the Programme of Action, scheduled to be held from 27 August to 7 September 2012, States should take the opportunity to advance implementation efforts of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels. Germany will work constructively towards that objective.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[5 October 2011]

Report of the Republic of Iraq on General Assembly resolution 65/64 concerning the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

The Republic of Iraq has taken the following measures in implementation of this resolution:

At the national level:

Pursuant to Iraqi Law No. 20 of 2007, Iraq has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol thereto against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their parts and Components and Ammunition.

1. Pursuant to Iraqi Law No. 20 of 2007, article 13, Iraq has established a focal point for small arms and light weapons and a national committee for arms control.

2. National legislation has been promulgated to control arms with a particularly dangerous impact, including silenced weapons. That legislation is additional to existing legislation that is in force with regard to this matter.

3. A model end user certificate has been devised and circulated, in accordance with resolution 46/36 L, concerning transparency and the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. A factory where illicit weapons are destroyed has also been established.

4. Borders are controlled using the most modern surveillance and detection equipment. In coordination with neighbouring countries, bilateral agreements have been concluded with a view to controlling the smuggling of illicit arms.

5. Practical coordination is conducted with the Iraqi National Security Council with a view to transferring the issue of arms control from the Ministry of the Interior and making it a matter of State concern.

At the regional level:

1. Action has been taken in coordination with the League of Arab States, Disarmament and Multilateral Relations Department, with a view to harmonizing arms control efforts and implementing League of Arab States resolution No. 6447, which was adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior in December 2002.

2. Action and coordination in the interchange of expertise with the relevant organizations, including the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior and other committees concerned with the issue of arms and ammunition.

At the international level:

1. Pursuant to Law No. 20 of 2007, Iraq became a party to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention

against Transnational Organized Crime, which the General Assembly adopted in its resolution 55/255.

2. An Iraqi focal point for Coordinating Action on Small Arms has been designated.

3. Coordination is ongoing with the United Nations Disarmament Commission on the issue of the exchange of information and expertise and maintenance of the United Nations Register.

4. Iraq is cooperating with United Nations programmes and, in particular, the United Nations Development Programme and UNICEF, and with friendly States that are providing support in technical areas.

Japan

[Original: English]
[7 October 2011]

Basic position

Within the framework of the United Nations, Japan has been actively grappling with the challenges caused by small arms and light weapons by simultaneously promoting the rule-making process and assistance to projects on the ground.

Every year since 2001, Japan, Colombia and South Africa have submitted to the General Assembly a resolution entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", which has either been adopted unanimously or by an overwhelming majority. Furthermore, Mitsuro Donowaki presided over the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York in 2001, and the Vice-President of Japan, Kuniko Inoguchi, was the President of the 2003 biennial meeting. Japan also hosted a workshop on small arms and light weapons, held in Tokyo in 2007, and financially assisted the convening of the South-East Asia regional seminar on brokering for small arms and light weapons, held in Bali in 2010.

At the Group of Eight summit meeting held in Kyushu-Okinawa in 2000, Japan made a commitment to put in place a small arms and light weapons fund within the United Nations, offering approximately 200 million yen to that end. Through such programmes as Official Development Assistance, the Government of Japan has been assisting the implementation of projects in Asia and Africa, such as the collection and destruction of weapons, research and education. Japan contributed to the 2009 project entitled "Enhancing Human Security in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa by Preventing Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms through Practical Disarmament", and to a seminar held in Nepal in 2011 entitled "Inter-Institutional Training Course to Combat Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons".

Status of implementation of the Programme of Action

National implementation

Although it has the capability to produce and export small arms and light weapons, Japan has been following the strict policy of banning the export of any

weapons in principle, based on its "Three Principles on Arms Export" and Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law. As shown in the section entitled "National implementation of the Programme of Action", below, Japan has national laws and regulations in place to ensure the implementation of the measures enshrined in the Programme of Action.

Implementation at the regional and global levels

As shown in the section entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action in the international community", below, Japan's activities at the regional level include assisting affected countries in implementing projects on the ground and promoting, for example, the exchange of information among customs authorities for border control, and among prosecution authorities for the control of illicit trade. At the global level, Japan actively participates in the rule-making process and ratifies all international conventions against terrorism.

Specific issues

Lessons learned from projects on the ground

In order to effectively respond to the issue of small arms and light weapons, Japan has considered various aspects and has recognized the importance of the lessons learned from projects in Cambodia and Afghanistan.

Project for collecting and destroying weapons in Cambodia

Importance of a comprehensive approach

In order to thoroughly prevent the illicit trade in weapons, the following measures must be taken in parallel:

- Collection and control of illicit weapons possessed by civilians
- Management of legal weapons stockpiled by security authorities such as the police
- Destruction of surplus legal weapons and collected illicit weapons

Confidence-building between civilians and the Government, including security authorities

If security authorities are unable to maintain law and order, civilians will not surrender their weapons. Therefore, security authorities must improve their policing and law-enforcement capacity in order to fulfil their duty regarding keeping order and to earn public confidence.

Adequate measures for responding to situations on the ground

It is not easy to grasp the real needs of a recipient country because such needs are multifaceted. Experts on small arms and light weapons, peacebuilding and human security should establish themselves in affected areas and design projects after researching and gaining an understanding of the situation.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration project in Afghanistan

Donor countries need to:

- Take into consideration the benefits not only for disarmed soldiers but also the groups of displaced persons and local inhabitants
- Promote adaptation with disarmed soldiers in terms of lifestyle as well as psychological aspects
- Build cooperative relationships with the Ministry of Defence and the military in the recipient country

Building a database: Programme of Action Implementation Support System

In 2005 and 2006, Japan made financial contributions through the small arms and light weapons fund in the United Nations to set up the database for the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism, which is part of the Programme of Action Implementation Support System and enables related international institutions to share information on the issue of small arms and light weapons. We expect the Programme of Action Implementation Support System, which has compiled information from both donor and recipient countries, to be used effectively as an easy access tool by as many relevant countries, personnel and entities as possible.

Resolution on small arms and light weapons

The resolution on small arms and light weapons has been co-authored and submitted to the General Assembly every year by Colombia, Japan and South Africa. The resolution plays an important role in promoting the implementation of the Programme of Action by raising public awareness annually regarding the issue in the international community, appealing to countries, relevant organizations and non-governmental organizations about the necessity of implementing the concrete measures proposed by the related meetings of the United Nations, and deciding on the follow-up mechanism, including the holding of related conferences at the United Nations in the coming years.

Way forward: the Programme of Action as a framework document

The 2012 review conference on small arms and light weapons is a good opportunity to review the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action over the 10 years since its adoption and to outline the future direction towards effectively addressing the issue of small arms and light weapons. Even though the Programme of Action deals with that issue comprehensively, its wording is often ambiguous, and a standard for measuring the achievements made by countries is lacking. Each country understands the Programme of Action in its own manner and has its own way of evaluating the Programme. Given that 10 years have elapsed since the Programme of Action was adopted, the action plan should be implemented based on a common understanding among the countries. This viewpoint is now shared by an increasing number of countries and some concrete initiatives can be observed, such as the creation of measurable benchmarks and the development of the International Small Arms Control Standards. It is quite important for the countries to exchange views at the 2012 review conference on how the Programme of Action can be consolidated as a framework document.

Promoting a common understanding of the Programme of Action among countries will provide greater meaning to the sharing of best practices and facilitate the matching of needs to resources in the area of international cooperation.

National implementation of the Programme of Action

Production

Japan's Ordnance Manufacturing Law and Explosives Control Law requires the permission of the concerned authorities for the production of arms and explosives. Violations thereof are liable to incur penalties.

Export

Pursuant to Japan's "Three Principles on Arms Export", Foreign Exchange Law and Foreign Trade Law, the export of specific kinds of goods to specified destinations, such as those considered to be obstructive to the maintenance of international peace and security, requires the permission of the relevant authority. Violation is liable to incur penalties.

Import

Japan's Customs Law bans the import of arms, except for those authorized under exceptional circumstances, while its Firearms and Swords Control Law bans in principle the possession and import of arms. Violation is liable to incur penalties.

Marking and tracing

In principle, all manufacturers of small arms and light weapons mark them with the name of the manufacturer and a serial number due to the practical necessity of production. It should be noted that, in Japan, no export of arms is permitted in principle even when they are marked, due to the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law. All small arms and light weapons possessed by the public institutions in charge of national defence and security are duly marked and appropriately recorded. Small arms and light weapons possessed by authorized civilians are subject to the same regulations as those possessed by public institutions.

Brokering

Japan's Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law requires permission for brokering activities, such as transactions accompanying the overseas movement of goods between residents and non-residents. Violation is liable to incur penalties.

Implementation of the Programme of Action in the international community

Cooperation at the regional level

Japan has actively extended its assistance mostly to Asian countries, such as Afghanistan, Cambodia and Sri Lanka, in addition to African countries such as Liberia, Mozambique and Sierra Leone, in order to reduce the suffering caused by small arms and light weapons. The total assistance provided during the past 10 years in such fields as collection and destruction of weapons, confidence-building, research, education, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and capacity-building, amounts to approximately $500 million.

Japan considers border control to be important for preventing illicit arms transfers. Japanese customs personnel were dispatched to the countries and areas prone to arms smuggling in order to strengthen information gathering. They also fostered dialogue with their counterparts, through cross-border networks established for information exchange among the customs authorities of different countries. The exchange of information on the transfer of arms was also promoted in meetings related to export controls.

Japan also considers cross-border partnerships with concerned investigation authorities to be important for preventing the proliferation of illicit arms. Japan strengthened those partnerships through information exchanges via the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and actively promoted joint investigation with the relevant countries prone to arms smuggling, thereby increasing ties with law enforcement authorities and promoting the sharing of related information. As regards capacity-building projects, Japan held seminars in Africa, Asia and Latin America on techniques related to identification and investigation methods, and on the Japanese *Koban* (police box) system.

Cooperation at the global level

Japan has accepted 13 conventions against terrorism, including the following three international conventions in the past 10 years:

- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (November 2001)
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (June 2002)
- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (August 2007)

Japan contributes to international rule-making process, as mentioned in the section entitled "Basic position", above.

Cooperation with civil society including international non-governmental organizations

Japan appreciates the capacity of non-governmental organizations to gather information and create networks, and attaches importance to its cooperative relationship with those organizations engaged in the issue of small arms and light weapons. Japan has been trying to promote the exchange of views and information sharing with such organizations involved in this issue.

In addition, Japan has been cooperating with non-governmental organizations on implementing projects for the collection and destruction of weapons in Cambodia and projects for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Afghanistan.

Norway

[Original: English]
[19 September 2011]

It is important to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Norway encourages all States to participate in the implementation of the programme and to comply fully with all its provisions. Norway is of the view that a legally binding instrument would provide for such a strengthening of the implementation of the Programme of Action. Alternatively, some of the key provisions in the Programme of Action could be made legally binding, such as the provisions against illicit brokering and the International Instrument.

Norway also underlines the importance of implementing the provision on end user certificates, as contained in paragraph II, 12 in the Programme of Action. Finally, Norway would like to stress the importance of fully including ammunition into the Programme of Action.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[11 October 2011]

Set forth below is a list of the measures that have been taken by Qatar in implementation of the Programme of Action:

1. Law No. 14 of 1999 concerning arms, ammunition and explosives was promulgated as national legislation with a view to regulating the circulation of arms and ammunition.

2. The apparatus of the Qatari Ministry of the Interior has been reinforced and its administrative and technical capacities have been strengthened with a view to the effective application of the above-mentioned Law on arms, ammunition and explosives.

3. Cooperation between Gulf Cooperation Council member States has been strengthened with regard to follow-up mechanisms and the prevention, suppression and elimination of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

4. There has been coordination with the Customs and Ports General Authority and that Authority has held awareness-raising workshops on arms for its employees, in order to ameliorate control and prevent any violations of the law on arms and ammunition.

5. Civil society organizations have been encouraged to play an effective role in raising awareness of this issue and its importance with regard to the security of both the individual and society and to international peace and security.

6. Contributions have been made to national meetings on arms control and on the transfer of expertise and mechanisms. Assistance has been provided to the relevant national parties, including with regard to activities relating to the raising of awareness of control of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

Romania

[Original: English]
[13 October 2011]

Laws, regulations and administrative procedures

In 2001, when the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was adopted, Romania already had a functional legal framework consisting of Law No. 17/02.04.1996 on the regime of firearms and ammunition, Government Decision No. 679/25.10.1997 on the approval of firearms and ammunition regulations, and military regulations concerning technical support with weapons and ammunition in peacetime.

In 2004, the Romanian parliament adopted Law No. 295/2004 on the regime of arms and ammunition. In 2011, it adopted and implemented Law No. 117/2011, amending and completing Law No. 295/2004, and Law No. 122/2011, concerning the regime of weapons, military assets and ammunition under the administrative authority of the Ministry of National Defence.

Collection and disposal

In 2002, the Ministry of National Defence issued a national programme for the destruction of small arms and light weapons. A surplus of some 195,510 such arms and weapons and 36,692,747 pieces of ammunition were destroyed, with the financial support of Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America,, through Government Decision Nos. 1501/18.12.2002, 1313/13.11.2003 and 1061/07.08.2004.

Export controls

Enhanced export controls system and implementation of best practices

Although very comprehensive, Romania's export control primary legislation, issued in 1999, was amended in 2004 and 2009 in order to exercise an effective control over the trade of military goods, including small arms and light weapons. During the past 10 years, administrative procedures and ministerial orders have been issued to increase effective controls of territorial, maritime and air borders through inter-agency cooperation and to control the final destination of small arms and light weapon exports. The National Export Controls Authority, part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department for Export Controls, is preparing a new draft law to amend the existing primary legislation of the control regime for exports, imports and other transfers of military goods, with a view to transposing recent best practices in the matter of military equipment and technology trade.

Monitoring process for exports of small arms and light weapons

The Department for Export Controls, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies and intelligent services, developed a monitoring process for exports of small arms and light weapons. All exports of such arms and weapons are subject to the monitoring process. Export licences are issued by the Department, with special clauses. Thus, it is mandatory for exporters to notify the Department, five days prior the shipment, of all elements being transferred, including, inter alia, the route,

carrier, quantity and serial number of small arms and light weapons. If the export can be made directly from Romania to the country of final destination, this implies that the export licence is issued with restriction on transit and/or trans-shipment.

Tracing small arms and light weapons

The International Tracing Instrument proved to be a clear and functional mechanism for exchanging information on the tracing of small arms and light weapons between countries in a timely and reliable manner.

In 2006, the Department for Export Controls created a register for all export and import transfers of small arms and light weapons. The register includes data regarding type, model, calibre, serial number and other relevant information, to facilitate the international exchange of information. The register also contains information about ammunition transfers. A special programme of awareness on the instrument, dedicated to exporters, importers and manufacturers, was organized by the Department.

Arms brokering controls

In 2008, the Department for Export Controls introduced a mandatory procedure by which all Romanian exports and imports are made directly with the end user, a contractor mandated by the end user or, if a direct transfer is not possible, indirectly only through a registered arms broker in his country of residence who is in possession of a licence for the transfers issued by his national export licence authority and is empowered by the end user.

Rapid mechanism for the enforcement of international arms embargoes

The Department for Export Controls developed an effective and rapid mechanism for the enforcement of arms transfer embargoes established by Security Council resolutions; joint actions or common positions adopted by the Council of the European Union; or decisions by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Thus, the primary legislation stipulates the direct and immediate applicability of the arms embargoes, without any supplementary secondary legislation. The Department also developed national procedures in respect of regional instruments and created a network of cooperation with a specific division responsible for the implementation of such instruments, for example, the Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Programme of the Economic Community of West African States.

International and regional contributions

Romania contributes actively at the international and regional levels. Romanian experts participated in the Group of Governmental Experts on the prevention of illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons, the Group of Governmental Experts on military expenditure transparency, the Group of Governmental Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, in the process of the Arms Trade Treaty, including the Group of Governmental Experts, and the preparation of the model law for the implementation of the United Nations Firearms Protocol. In the past 10 years, experts from the Department for Export Controls served as instructors to help many countries to create or to develop a national arms export control system. It also

invited national export controls officials from the countries in the areas of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea to Romania for bilateral discussions or specific workshops and training activities. In recognition of its contribution to export controls development, the Department organized the Eighth International Export Control Conference, held in Bucharest in 2007, in cooperation with the Department of State of the United States of America.

Transparency

In September 2002, Romania published its first national report on arms exports, covering the years 2000 and 2001. Since 2006, the Department for Export Controls has also published quarterly reports. The most recent reports, covering 2010 and the first quarter of 2011, were published by the Department in September 2011. The transparency of the Romanian arms export controls reports is continuously increasing, with sections added on brokering activities controls in 2006; details of military equipment and technology in 2006; the control of transits and trans-shipments in 2009; and generic Government, industry, and commercial end users. In the most recent survey of State transparency, in 2011, Romania was ranked fifth of 49 major small-arms-exporting nations.

Thailand

[Original: English]
[27 September 2011]

Marking

Current practice

Thailand has consistently conformed to marking requirements for small arms and light weapons within the International Tracing Instrument, despite not being a State party to the United Nations Firearm Protocol. Thailand is of the view that effective marking can circumscribe the prevalence of illicit small arms and light weapons, and curtail suffering caused by the misuse of such weapons.

The current national legislation has latitude to allow for the implementation of the commitments of the International Tracing Instrument. Thailand does not domestically produce any small arms and light weapons but has strict practices on the engraving of unique serial numbers to register all imported weapons. Additionally, ammunitions produced in Thailand are also serially marked and can be effectively traced.

Challenges

Marking alterations

Despite following the implementation commitments of the International Tracing instrument, Thailand faces shortcomings on weapon marking alterations. The sophistication of such alterations, coupled with the versatility of small arms and light weapon modifications, have made it extremely difficult to trace weapons involved in crimes. Currently, Thailand is able to apply, with intermittent success, chemicals to recover erased serial number markings.

Lack of proper tools and techniques

At the provincial and district levels, the serial numbers of new weapons are marked manually. That practice can only produce unclear markings that are not durable and are easy to alter by wrongdoers, and makes tracing more difficult or even impossible.

International markings/previous weapon markings

The relevant authorities have expressed budgetary and technical requirement concerns regarding harmonizing domestic marking practices with international marking standards. Such a measure may be critical for the international tracing of illicit weapons. In addition, the budgetary challenge has made it difficult to track down the markings of previously imported weapons prior to current marking practices.

Way forward

The relevant authorities have noted the shortcomings of the current measures and shown a keen interest in receiving technical know-how on innovative marking measures that can prevent the removal or alterations of markings as well as the techniques that can retrieve erased or altered markings. Some innovative marking/tracing measures that could supplement current methods include gunshot residual marking samples, ammunition chamber inscription or other practices to be shared during the open-ended meeting of governmental experts.

Record keeping

Current practice

The feasibility of database integration on weapons records is being examined by the relevant agencies.

Way forward

Thailand would appreciate information or knowledge on database formatting, management and maintenance.

Tracing

Current practice and challenges

Thailand has never been requested to provide information on weapons tracing, nor requested such information itself.

Given the increasing global trend for the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons that could easily undermine regional peace and security, there remain such small-scale and widely unknown international tracing cooperation mechanisms as the Firearm Trace Request system of INTERPOL. Thailand faces such obstacles as personnel capacity-building and awareness-raising across all law-enforcement agencies in bridging local tracing and international efforts. Therefore, the existing mechanism provided by INTERPOL is not yet fully utilized.

Way forward

The Royal Thai Police will raise more awareness and capacity among national agencies to utilize current international tracing architectures, such as the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table. Any new international tracing techniques would also benefit Thailand, which is situated at the centre of a region where small arms and light weapon trafficking has increased significantly of late.

National frameworks

Current practices/challenges

Thailand has put in place the following laws, which are consistent with the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument:

- Act Controlling Firearms, Ammunitions, Explosives, Fireworks and Imitation of Firearms (1947 and 1967)
- Act Controlling the Exportation of Arms, Armaments and War Implements (1952)
- Munitions of War Control Act (1987)

The Thai national point of contact is the Office of National Security Council, which oversees the coordination for the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. However, relevant Acts give authority to the Ministry of the Interior, the Royal Thai Police and the Armed Forces on controlling small arms and light weapons in Thailand.

Way forward

Thailand is engaged in making legislative changes to the current law to reflect the changing small arms and light weapon technologies and the proliferation of such arms and weapons in the region. The proposed amendment is currently under review by the Council of State prior to further evaluation by implementing agencies.

Thailand would be interested in finding out about institutional arrangements among relevant domestic institutions in implementing the Programme of Action.

Regional cooperation

Current practices/challenges

Thailand has consistently cooperated with other countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the implementation of the Programme of Action, through the ASEAN ministerial and senior official meetings on transnational crimes and meetings of the Chiefs of Police of ASEAN member States.

Way forward

Thailand will continue to support ASEAN and the ASEAN Regional Forum to strengthen closer cooperation within the existing regional frameworks, for example, through intersessional meetings of the ASEAN Regional Forum on counter-terrorism and transnational crime and on confidence-building measures and preventive diplomacy.

International assistance and capacity-building

Current practices/challenges

Given the increasing trend in the region for proliferation of small arms and light weapons, which can undermine regional peace, stability and development, Thailand views regional cooperation as important.

Way forward

In summary, Thailand seeks cooperation, international assistance and capacity-building in the areas of current and past weapons marking systems; marking alterations; record keeping database formatting; management and maintenance; capacity-building and awareness of international tracing cooperations, such as INTERPOL; and domestic institutional arrangements, best practices and legislative changes.

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Item 95 (w) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/67/50.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 66/38, the General Assembly reaffirmed the ways and means regarding confidence- and security-building measures set out in the report of the Disarmament Commission on its 1993 session, and called upon Member States to pursue those ways and means through sustained consultations and dialogue, while at the same time avoiding actions that may hinder or impair such a dialogue. Furthermore, the Assembly urged States to comply strictly with all bilateral, regional and international agreements, including arms control and disarmament agreements, to which they are a party. The Assembly also emphasized that the objective of confidence-building measures should be to help strengthen international peace and security and be consistent with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, and encouraged the promotion of bilateral and regional confidence-building measures, with the consent and participation of the parties concerned, to avoid conflict and prevent the unintended and accidental outbreak of hostilities. It requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session containing the views of Member States on confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional contexts. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

2. A note verbale was sent on 15 February 2012 to all Member States requesting their views. To date, replies from the Governments of Armenia, Germany, Mexico, Qatar, Spain, Turkey and Viet Nam have been received and are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies received from Member States

Armenia

[Original: English]
[12 June 2012]

United Nations resolution 66/38 is an important mechanism for the exchange of views and approaches on confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels, to identify the principal problems in the sphere and to seek solutions.

Armenia has always advocated the principle of regional cooperation in every possible sphere, which is a significant contributor to confidence-building. The settlement of regional tensions is possible only through cooperation, since it creates the much-needed environment of mutual trust, thus facilitating the solution of even the most protracted and long-lasting problems.

Guided by this principled approach, Armenia makes every effort to advance confidence-building in the South Caucasus, utilizing the frameworks of the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council/Partnership for Peace of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and bilateral relations. Armenia has always demonstrated its readiness and goodwill to initiate projects aimed at development of regional cooperation in various fields.

Unfortunately, one can witness a very dangerous situation in the region, which is characterized by arms race, closed borders and blockade, permanent threat of use of force, ceasefire violations and wide anti-Armenian propaganda by Armenia's immediate neighbours to the East and West, aimed at isolation. The ill-perceived political motivations of Turkey and Azerbaijan do not allow taking practical confidence-building steps in the fields of regional security, disarmament, conflict settlement, etc.

According to official information on implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, as at 1 January 2012 Azerbaijan has significantly exceeded its established ceilings in three categories of treaty-limited equipment. The Azerbaijani holdings in battle tanks are 381 (the permitted ceiling is 220) and in artillery they are 516 (the permitted ceiling is 285). In 2011, there was a sizeable increase of holdings in artillery — to 47, as well as in the category of attack helicopters — from 3 to 5 and in armoured combat vehicles — to 106. Azerbaijan deliberately failed to reflect the exceeding of ceiling of armoured combat vehicles — 287 against 220 permitted by the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. Azerbaijan has significantly increased its military budget over the past years (the defence budget for 2012 is $3.47 billion). In fact the region is at the edge of a full-scale war, which can be unleashed by Azerbaijan at any moment.

The full and unconditional implementation of the legally binding Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe is not only the main instrument of conventional arms control but also one of the cornerstones of confidence-building measures in the region, and the negligent position of Azerbaijan in this regard has a very negative impact on the efforts of Armenia to promote an atmosphere of trust and cooperation in the region. The harsh anti-Armenian aggressive rhetoric of the Azerbaijani leadership also heightens the tension in the region of the South Caucasus and seriously undermines the negotiation process aimed at the peaceful settlement of existing problems, particularly the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. The Azerbaijani leadership frustrates any attempts of Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh Republic, as well as those of international community to materialize initiatives of regional cooperation and confidence-building. Moreover, Azerbaijan is unashamedly conducting a political course directed at the denigration of the historic and cultural Armenian heritage in the region. Groundless statements that the territory of Armenia and its capital are parts of the so-called "ancient" Azerbaijan are vivid manifestations of that policy.

Exclusion from regional projects aimed at the complete economic and transport-related isolation of Armenia, rejection of any people-to-people contacts are also part of the deplorable mindset of negation.

The confidence- and security-building measures are of particular significance in conflict resolution. Regrettably, Azerbaijan refuses to remove from the line of contact snipers that claim several dozens of lives every year. The Azeri side ignores the persistent calls of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Chairman in Office of OSCE, Co-Chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group to this effect. Azerbaijan is trying to withdraw from an agreement to set up a mechanism for the investigation of ceasefire violations, which was the outcome of the Sochi Summit of the Presidents of Armenia, the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan on 2 March 2011. Thus, Azerbaijan denies all attempts to consolidate the ceasefire regime.

Armenia stands ready for open, constructive and regular dialogue with its neighbour to create an atmosphere of trust and cooperation, which will enable us to move forward in the process of settlement of persisting problems in the Armenian-Azerbaijani relations.

Germany

[Original: English]
[31 May 2012]

1. Introduction

The Federal Republic of Germany, referring to its 2011 contribution to the database on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms (resolution 65/63) of 31 May 2012, attaches great significance to confidence-building measures in disarmament and arms control, and emphasizes the importance of such measures on a regional and subregional level.

2. German participation in treaties and agreements with regard to confidence-building measures on a regional and subregional level and related activities

(a) Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe

(b) Treaty on Open Skies

(c) Vienna Document

(d) OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security

(e) General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Peace Agreement), annex 1-B

(f) OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons

(g) OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition

(h) OSCE Document on Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers

3. Other German activities (conferences and seminars) with regard to confidence-building measures in 2011 (list is not exhaustive)

Germany also pays particular attention to regional and subregional dialogue with regard to issues relating to confidence-building measures, landmines and small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. Activities in 2011 included:

- Continued support to training courses at the NATO School in the field of small arms and light weapons/conventional ammunition
- Continued support to training courses and seminars at the "Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Center" in Zagreb
- "Group of Governmental Experts to review the operation and further development of the United Nations Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures", chaired by Germany
- Continued support to training courses and seminars in Tadzhikistan in the field of small arms and light weapons/conventional ammunition

- Support of an OSCE/United Nations Development Programme fact-finding mission in Serbia in the field of conventional ammunition

- "High-Level Seminar on Confidence-building Mechanisms and Preventive Diplomacy" co-chaired by Germany and Indonesia within the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum, Berlin, 27 to 29 November 2011.

For all further details, see Germany's 2011 report entitled "Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms (resolution 65/63)", issued on 31 May 2012.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[8 May 2012]

Mexico is a firm defender of peace, stability and security in the region and on the continent and has therefore supported, and will continue to promote, confidence-building measures in both a regional and subregional context.

National activities

Mexico has a comprehensive strategy to combat organized crime, through which it seizes arms, weapons, drugs and chemical precursors, and also destroys clandestine laboratories and crops of marijuana and poppies.

In that regard, Mexico has operational procedures in place to control the manufacture, storage, transport and use of weapons and ammunition for civilian use as required for the pursuit of justice, public security, hunting, sports and residential security.

The Ministry of Defence (SEDENA), under strict security measures, destroys obsolete confiscated weaponry. It also retains the exclusive right — through the Directorate for the Commercialization of Weapons and Ammunition — to offer for sale weapons and ammunition needed by Mexican public and private security forces, in conformity with the Federal Firearms and Explosives Act and its implementing regulations.

Those normative measures adhere to regional and subregional confidence-building measures by regulating the import and export of firearms, ammunition and explosives of all kinds.

Bilateral activities

Mexico participates in binational commissions with Belize, Guatemala and the United States of America, through which specific activities for coordination and cooperation have been established in order to strengthen security on common borders.

In addition, through its Tax Administration Service, the Customs Administration, in coordination with the Ministries of Defence, the Navy and Public Security, oversees activities aimed at preventing the illegal entry of firearms and ammunition on the Mexico-United States border. To that end, the Government of Mexico has reorganized its customs offices, which have been furnished with

technological vehicle barriers, systems for the monitoring and control of vehicles, centralized video surveillance and inspection via unobtrusive equipment (such as X-rays and gamma rays), all of which make the work of those agencies easier and contribute to disarmament and improvement of control over the movement of goods.

Moreover, Mexico continues to comply with its inter-agency agreements on maritime cooperation and with the rules of action and procedures established with the United States of America (Coast Guard and Navy) and with Honduras in order to promote more and better coordination on preventing trafficking in arms, psychotropic substances and undocumented persons, and other crimes of a maritime nature.

Along with the foregoing, as part of its bilateral activity, a workshop on Mexico-Guatemala-Belize border security was held in Mexico City from 16 to 18 August 2011, with the participation of Canada, Colombia and the United States of America.

Regional activities

Mexico recognizes and applies the confidence-building measures contained in the Declaration of Santiago, the Declaration of San Salvador and the Miami Consensus, as endorsed in the Declaration on Security in the Americas, with a commitment to improving hemispheric security and promoting cooperation and trust among the States of the region.

In that regard, Mexico keeps the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) informed in a timely manner about its activities in compliance with the commitments it has made to promote confidence- and security-building measures, following the directives of the consolidated list of confidence- and security-building measures requiring notification under the resolutions of that organization.

Further, in 2011, Mexico deposited with OAS the ratification instrument of the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions. Thus, Mexico is now a party to all the inter-American agreements and conventions on security matters, contributing to the implementation of measures to promote trust and security within the hemisphere.

Moreover, Mexico continues to participate in various hemispheric forums devoted to the discussion of various means to promote confidence and security agreed by OAS member States.

In addition, through the Ministry of the Navy, and with the approval of the Mexican Congress, Mexico has participated in the following naval exercises:

- UNITAS LI Fase Atlantica-Argentina, conducted from 17 to 25 May 2010 in the ports of Mar del Plata and Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- UNITAS Pacífico 2010, conducted from 1 June to 26 August 2010, in Peru and Chile.
- UNITAS LII, maritime component, from 15 April to 11 May 2011, in Brazilian territorial waters.
- UNITAS LII, amphibious component, "Society of the Americas 2011", in Brazilian territorial waters.

Of all the principles that we believe should govern confidence- and security-building measures, as presented in Spain's response to the request for information pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/37, those most noteworthy within the regional and subregional context are as follows:

- Singularity: Confidence- and security-building measures should be specifically negotiated for each case and for each specific geographic area.
- Transparency: This should be based on exchanges of information and on the establishment of fluid contacts and ease of communication.
- Verifiability: Measures to be adopted should be accompanied by a regime that allows for verification of their implementation. This is the only way to maintain confidence where suspicions have arisen about possible non-compliance.
- Reciprocity: The advantages each party obtains with respect to improved trust in the other parties should be reciprocated; otherwise, negotiation of such measures becomes enormously difficult.
- Voluntary participation in negotiations and obligatory compliance: The parties should at all times feel comfortable with the measures agreed. The political will required to negotiate confidence- and security-building measures should also be perfectly compatible with the obligation to implement them once enacted.[3]
- Progressivity: Confidence- and security-building measures should constitute a process that entails the progressive development of new and more effective measures so that trust between the parties continues to improve.
- Complementarity: Complementarity among confidence- and security-building measures adopted at the global (United Nations), regional, subregional and bilateral levels should be permanently guaranteed, while also ensuring that there is no duplication.

In addition, the effective implementation of confidence- and security-building measures requires:

- A mechanism for consultation and follow-up on the application of the measures, which should allow for problems that may arise in their practical implementation to be reported and resolved, as well as for the negotiation of additional measures or the modification of existing ones;
- An appropriate communications system or, in its absence, a network of contact points for participants that should, on the one hand, ensure compliance with the deadlines contained in the different measures (executive level) and, on the other, be flexible enough to handle the flow of information and decision-making that will allow trust to be re-established in the event of future crises (management level).

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broader regional balance and which came into force on 1 January 2002.

[3] Nonetheless, the imposition of a regime for confidence- and security-building measures, such as the one set out in article II, annex 1-B, of the Dayton Agreement, has also proven to be effective if accompanied by an adequate international arbitration system.

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Turkey

[Original: English]
[31 May 2012]

The regional and subregional confidence-building measures have proven to be useful in addressing security challenges such as armed conflicts and the arms race. However, there is no one single set of criteria to define these measures or ensure their efficient implementation, since their scope and parameters vary depending on the characteristics of each region.

The experience with regard to Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security suggest that regional and subregional confidence-building measures are most effective when designed as complementary components of more comprehensive security systems. In the case of Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian conventional security architecture, regional and subregional confidence-building measures are embedded within the Vienna Document on confidence- and security-building measures, a politically binding multilateral arrangement adopted within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in order to enhance military transparency and predictability.

Chapter X of the Vienna Document sets forth in detail the governing principles and purposes of regional measures to be developed in the OSCE geography. This approach aims at attaining two distinct goals. First is to ensure that regional and subregional confidence-building measures contribute to overall security and stability of the OSCE region, including the concept of indivisibility of security. Second is to avoid any scenario in which such confidence-building measures might be detrimental to the security of third parties in the same region. Eventually, the agreed regional and subregional confidence-building measures form part of the OSCE-wide web of interlocking and mutually reinforcing agreements.

In the OSCE area, the terms confidence-building measures, arms control and disarmament in the conventional field indicate different concepts. Therefore, these concepts, while complementing each other, do not duplicate or replace each other. In this regard, the concept of confidence-building measures does not in principle include the notion of numerical limitation, and is thus devoid of a hard security perspective. The legally binding Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe is a hard security instrument and imposes numerical limitations on certain types of military armaments and equipment at the continental, regional and subregional levels. As a result, in the OSCE geography, conventional arms control and disarmament issues are not addressed directly through confidence-building measures.

Among the regional and subregional confidence-building measures in the OSCE geography, the "Document on Confidence and Security-building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea" is worth mentioning due to its unique nature. This Document, in the conclusion of which Turkey played a leading role, aims at enhanced operational cooperation in combating terrorism and organized crime, including drug trafficking and the illegal arms trade. To this end, the Document consists of politically binding measures for the exchange of information on the composition of naval forces, visits to naval bases, observation of naval exercises and organization of joint training, seminars and conferences. Romania, Georgia, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Turkey are parties to this Document. The obligations undertaken within its framework Document in no way undercuts the

possibility of joint naval activities with third countries in the Black Sea. Neither does it curtail the freedom of navigation. The parties to the Document meet in Vienna annually in order to assess implementation and explore ideas for increasing its efficiency.

Viet Nam

[Original: English]
[8 May 2012]

The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam pursues a policy of peace, friendship and expanded international relations and cooperation with all countries in the world, irrespective of their political and social systems, on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit; it actively supports and contributes to the common struggle of the peoples of the world for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

Since becoming a member of the United Nations in 1977, Viet Nam has always been an active and responsible member of the world's largest organization. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the 2008-2009 term, Viet Nam successfully fulfilled its role, making a positive contribution to world peace while upholding the Charter of the United Nations and principles of international law. At the same time, it has been enhancing its international integration, proactively participating in and making contributions to regional and international multilateral forums, such as the United Nations, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Asia-Europe Meeting and the Non-Aligned Movement, on solving the global issues of nuclear security, nuclear disarmament, crime prevention, climate change and sustainable development. Furthermore, Viet Nam is always willing to share with other countries its experiences in South-South and tripartite cooperation, financing for development, enhancing aid effectiveness and mainstreaming the Millennium Development Goals into national socioeconomic strategies.

Viet Nam has been a party to all major international instruments for the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, including the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. It has also been fulfilling its obligations under all the relevant United Nations mechanisms, especially those set up by the Security Council.

Viet Nam attaches importance to confidence-building and preventive diplomacy measures in the regional and subregional context that serve as the foundations for building trust among countries. In this spirit, Viet Nam became a member of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia in 2010. It has been working closely with other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other stakeholders for peace, stability, cooperation and development in Southeast Asia, East Asia and beyond, through ASEAN-led mechanisms and such instruments as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, the

ASEAN Regional Forum and the East Asia Summit. Peace, stability, security, navigation safety and freedom are the common interest of the region and all countries. Like other ASEAN members, Viet Nam is strongly committed to dialogue and confidence-building mechanisms, and stands ready to work with the concerned parties to find peaceful settlements to any dispute in accordance with international law, including the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea. Along with the parties concerned, it will strictly observe the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea and welcomes the stated commitments to working together towards the conclusion of a code of conduct in the foreseeable future.

United Nations A/67/115

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 June 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Item 95 (d) of the preliminary list*
General and complete disarmament

Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its sixty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 65/51, entitled "Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol", paragraphs 2 to 4 of which read as follows:

> *The General Assembly*,
>
> ...
>
> 2. *Renews its previous call* to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare,[1] and reaffirms the vital necessity of upholding its provisions;
>
> 3. *Calls upon* those States that continue to maintain reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw them;
>
> 4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

2. Since the previous note by the Secretary-General on the subject, submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session (A/65/95), no withdrawals of reservations by States parties have been reported by the depositary of the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

3. Should the Secretary-General receive notice of further withdrawals of reservations to the Protocol, Member States will be duly informed.

* A/67/50.

[1] League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

12-39102 (E) 090712

Please recycle

United Nations A/67/116

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 June 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Item 85 of the preliminary list*
The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/103, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the basis of information and observations received from Member States and relevant observers, as appropriate, on the scope and application of universal jurisdiction, including, where appropriate, information on the relevant applicable international treaties, their domestic legal rules and judicial practice.

* A/67/50.

12-39529 (E) 090712

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/103. It takes into account the continuing relevance of the reports of 2010 and 2011 (A/65/181 and A/66/93 and Add.1) on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction. The present report reflects comments and observations received since the issuance of the report of 2011 and should be read together with the reports of 2010 and 2011. Prior comments and observations have not been repeated in the present report.

2. In accordance with resolution 66/103, section II of the present report, together with tables 1 and 2, focus on specific information regarding the scope and application of universal jurisdiction on the basis of relevant domestic legal rules, applicable international treaties and judicial practice. Section III provides information received from observers, and section IV contains a synopsis of issues raised by Governments for possible discussion.

3. Responses were received from Cuba, El Salvador, Finland, Ghana, Kuwait, New Zealand, Panama, Sweden and Viet Nam. New Zealand indicated that its information and observations on the topic had been submitted to the Secretary-General in 2010, as reflected in his report (A/65/181).

4. A response was also received from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.[1]

5. Owing to internal controls to ensure strict compliance with General Assembly resolutions on word limits for parliamentary documents issued by the Secretary-General, an attempt has been made to condense the submissions received without affecting the substance. The short form "universal jurisdiction" is used throughout the report where submissions may have described it as "the principle of" or "the concept of" universal jurisdiction. The complete replies are available from the website of the Sixth Committee under the heading "Sixty-seventh session".

II. Scope and application of universal jurisdiction on the basis of the relevant domestic legal rules, applicable international treaties and judicial practice: comments by Governments

A. Basic legal rules

1. Constitutional and other domestic legal framework

El Salvador

6. Recalling its previous comments (see A/66/93, paras. 19, 54, 84 and 143), El Salvador reiterated that article 10 of its Penal Code expressly recognized universal jurisdiction without establishing an exhaustive list of crimes; the key element for application of the principle was the commission of crimes that impaired legal rights

[1] The following observers advised that they had no relevant information or observations to submit: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

that are internationally protected by specific agreements or rules of international law, or entailed a serious breach of universally recognized human rights.

7. That requirement, however, did not diminish the importance of prior work to define international crimes within the domestic legal system; such definition was a prerequisite for ensuring that the conduct of criminal proceedings was characterized by legal certainty. El Salvador indicated that such prior work links State activity to the principle of legality, which assures those subject to the law that their conduct cannot be penalized other than by virtue of a law issued and promulgated prior to the commission of the act deemed to be an offence. For example, according to the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of El Salvador, the principle of legality constitutes a guarantee for the individual that he or she may not be subject to any penalty or punishment that has not been previously established, thereby preventing abuses of power.[2]

8. In line with the foregoing, there had been recent reform of the Penal Code by which the crime of torture was included as a crime against humanity. The reform was based on the provisions of the Constitution of El Salvador that recognized the human person as the origin and purpose of the activity of the State, which is organized to attain justice, legal certainty and the common good and, furthermore, recognized that every person has the right to physical and psychological integrity.

9. The reform also derived from the State's obligation to align national legislation with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which was ratified by the State by means of Legislative Decree No. 833 of 23 March 1994. That instrument required that the Convention's provisions be implemented in good faith, including article 4 thereof, which required each State party to ensure that all acts of torture, as well as any attempt to commit torture and any act by any person that constitutes complicity or participation in torture, are offences under its criminal law.

10. In drafting the reform, particular attention was therefore paid to the definition contained in article 1 of the Convention, defining torture. Previously, torture was criminalized in article 297 of the Penal Code concerning offences relating to the fundamental rights and guarantees of the person, and the legal right protected was linked primarily to the individual rights of persons and the constitutional provisions establishing that no person shall be subjected to any condition that undermined his or her dignity or involved any form of torture. The definition of the crime thus did not yet incorporate with sufficient clarity its international dimensions.

11. Following the reform, torture now appears in title XIX of the Penal Code relating to crimes against humanity. Its inclusion under that title could bring about the future application of the principle of universal jurisdiction in specific cases, since it is now possible to link it to legal rights protected internationally, in this case, in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as to the violation of universally recognized rights such as the right to personal integrity.

12. Moreover, the wording of the article was modified with the aim of broadening its scope and adapting it to cover different means of commission. One of the main

[2] Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of El Salvador, Judgement No. 471-2005 (*amparo* proceedings), 22 January 2010.

changes introduced was the express prohibition of grave acts such as coercing, instigating or inducing others to commit torture and using torture as a means of coercion or intimidation.

13. Furthermore, the reform increased the statutory penalty for the crime of torture from 3 to 6 years of imprisonment to 6 to 12 years of imprisonment, and added the accessory penalty of disqualification from the corresponding public office or employment for the same period. Following the legislative reform, the crime was defined as follows:

> Article 366-A. Any official or public employee, public authority or law enforcement officer who, in the performance of his or her duties, intentionally inflicts severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, or who instigates, induces or consents to such acts or does not prevent their commission, shall be subject to 6 to 12 years' imprisonment and disqualification from the corresponding public office or employment for the same period.
>
> Any person who is instigated or induced to act by, or acts on behalf of, the persons referred to in the above paragraph, or acts as an accomplice, shall be subject to the general regime of perpetration and participation provided for in book I, title II, chapter IV, of this Code.
>
> The definition of torture shall not include physical or mental pain or suffering arising from or inherent in legal measures.

Ghana

14. Part Four of the Courts Act of 1993 (Act 459) provides in section 56, on the criminal jurisdiction of the Courts, that:

> (1) Subject to this section, the jurisdiction of the Courts in criminal matters is exercisable only in respect of an offence committed within Ghana including its territorial waters and air space and in respect of offences committed on a ship or an aircraft registered or licensed in Ghana.
>
> ...
>
> (4) Any person (whether a citizen or not) is liable to be tried and punished in Ghana for the respective offence if he does an act which if done within the jurisdiction of the courts of Ghana would have constituted any of the following offences:
>
> (a) Slave trade or traffic in slaves;
>
> (b) Piracy;
>
> (c) Traffic in women or children;
>
> (d) Falsification or counterfeiting or uttering of false copies or counterfeits of any official seal of Ghana or any currency, instrument of credit, stamp, passport, or public document issued by the Republic or under its authority;

(e) Genocide;

(f) Any offence against the property of the Republic;

(g) Any offence against the security, territorial integrity or political independence of the Republic;

(h) Hijacking;

(i) Unlawful traffic in narcotics;

(j) Attacks on any international communications system, canal or submarine cable;

(k) Unauthorized disclosure of an official secret of the Republic;

(l) An offence by or against a person in the employment of the Republic or a statutory corporation while acting in the course of the duties of such employment;

(m) Traffic in obscene publications;

(n) Any other offence which is authorized or required by a convention or treaty to which the Republic is a signatory to be prosecuted and punished in Ghana wherever the offence was committed.

15. Moreover, article 1 of the Geneva Conventions Act of Ghana, 2009 (Act 708) provides that for the exercise of jurisdiction, indictments may be issued against any person of whatever nationality who commits an offence whether within or outside Ghana.

Kuwait

16. When present in the territory of Kuwait, perpetrators of crimes outside the country will be pursued in accordance with the Kuwaiti Penal Code, which was established by Law No. 16 of 1960.

17. Kuwait has also formulated a draft resolution on an integrated law that deals specifically with crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Panama

18. Panama indicated that universal jurisdiction had been applied in respect of crimes with implications for the international community, including drug trafficking, money-laundering, trafficking in persons and terrorism.

19. Panama suggested that Act No. 13 of 27 July 1994 invoked universal jurisdiction to regulate matters related to international cooperation in the investigation of drug trafficking crimes. Articles 33 and 34 read:

> Article 33: Investigations into the offences set out in article 261 of the Penal Code may also be launched in cooperation with, or at the request of, the State in which the said crimes were committed.
>
> Article 34: The Panamanian courts shall have jurisdiction over the crimes covered by the present special Act even where the crime that gave rise to the legal proceedings was committed abroad, provided that the crime or any of the elements thereof was committed, or produced all or some of its effects, in

Panamanian territory, and in other cases to which article 9 of the Penal Code applies.

20. In addition, Panama referred to article 389 of the Penal Code, as amended by article 11 of Act. No. 1 (2004), which expressly criminalized money-laundering:

> Anyone who receives, deposits, trades in, converts or transfers money, securities, property or other financial resources in the knowledge that they are derived from activities related to drug trafficking, fraud, illicit arms trafficking, trafficking in persons, kidnapping, extortion, embezzlement, corruption of public servants, terrorist acts, theft or international trafficking in vehicles, as provided for under Panamanian criminal law, with the aim of hiding or concealing their illicit origin or of helping to evade the legal consequences of such crimes shall be sentenced to 5 to 12 years' imprisonment and a fine of 100 to 200 days.

Sweden

21. Sweden reiterated information contained in paragraphs 43 to 45 of the previous report (A/66/93). It also noted that, pursuant to chapter 2, section 5.2, of the Swedish Criminal Code, the prosecution of crimes against international law that have been committed outside of Sweden required the authorization of the Government of Sweden. Moreover, the report and proposals of the Commission on International Criminal Law of Sweden, concerning international crimes and Swedish jurisdiction, which reviewed Swedish legislation on criminal responsibility for international crimes and jurisdiction over crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, had been remitted for comments, and preparations towards a Government bill were taking place.

Viet Nam

22. In Vietnamese law, the principle of territoriality is emphasized and is generally applied. In certain circumstances, however, extraterritorial jurisdiction is also exercised. Article 6, paragraph 2 of the Vietnamese Criminal Code of 1999, modified in 2009, provides:

> Foreigners who commit offences outside the territory of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam may be prosecuted for such offences under the Penal Code of Viet Nam in circumstances provided for in the international treaties which the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has signed or acceded.

With the exception of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the other relevant treaties to which Viet Nam is a party (listed below in table 2) provide for a general duty of States parties to extradite or prosecute alleged offenders, irrespective of their nationality or where the alleged offences occurred. Accordingly, Viet Nam could exercise its jurisdiction where an offender was present in its territory and where it decided not to extradite him or her to another State even though that person was neither a national of Viet Nam nor had committed a crime in its territory.

2. Applicable international treaties

23. A list of the treaties referred to, on the basis of information received, by Governments is provided in table 2.

B. Conditions, restrictions or limitations to the exercise of jurisdiction

1. Constitutional and domestic legal framework

Kuwait

24. Within the context of bilateral agreements relating to international judicial cooperation, Kuwait indicated that there are rules applicable to the tracking of criminals and their extradition.

Sweden

25. To ensure an impartial and fair trial for all parties involved in an investigation or prosecution regarding international crimes, Sweden reiterated that it is of the utmost importance that the rule of law govern national judicial systems.

26. In order to initiate proceedings for international crimes that are not part of Swedish national law, such as, for example, crimes against humanity, the offence in question must fall within the scope of the national criminal law of Sweden. Sweden can exercise universal jurisdiction over such crimes if the least severe punishment prescribed for the crime in Swedish law is imprisonment for four years or more.

27. In addition, as noted previously, prosecution over crimes against international law that have been committed outside of Sweden requires the authorization of the Government of Sweden.

2. Judicial and other practice

Finland

28. The first case tried by Finnish courts under universal jurisdiction proceeded through the district court and the court of appeal. The court of appeal gave its judgement on 30 March 2012, where it upheld the district court's decision that the defendant was guilty of the crime of genocide in his country of origin. The defendant was sentenced to life imprisonment. The judgement of the court of appeal is not yet final, as it may be appealed to the Supreme Court, provided that the Supreme Court grants leave to appeal.

III. Scope and application of universal jurisdiction: comments by observers

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

29. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) reiterated the information summarized in the previous report, regarding the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. In response to the extraterritoriality requirement contained in subparagraph 1 (c) of article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention, 115 States have informed OPCW that they have extended their penal legislation to implement the prohibitions of the Chemical Weapons Convention to any activity undertaken anywhere by natural persons possessing their nationality.

30. The majority of States parties have tended not to address the issue of universal jurisdiction in their legislation implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention,

limiting the scope of their measures to the explicit requirements prescribed under the Convention. A limited number of States parties have gone beyond what is required by the Chemical Weapons Convention, however, and have provided for the exercise of universal jurisdiction by their national courts for crimes related to the Convention.

31. Moreover, States may have adopted other pieces of legislation, in accordance with general principles of international law or in response to obligations under other international conventions, allowing for the exercise of universal jurisdiction, under which crimes related to the Chemical Weapons Convention may be prosecuted. In that respect, the use of chemical weapons could, thus, constitute the material element of a crime prosecuted in a national court, if any other conditions established by the relevant legislation are met.

32. The only international crimes by individuals explicitly related to chemical weapons that have been codified by the international community are the war crimes of the use of poison or poisoned weapons and the use of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases in both international and non-international armed conflicts. OPCW holds the view that there is a comprehensive and universal prohibition on the use of chemical weapons in both customary and conventional international law.

IV. Nature of the issue for discussion: specific comments by States

Cuba

33. Cuba[3] stressed that the application of universal jurisdiction should be regulated at the international level. Such regulation should envisage the possibility that, when a country applies the principle of universal jurisdiction, it should obtain the prior consent of the State in which the crime was committed or of the country or countries of which the accused is a national. Regulation at the international level should also establish the criteria for application of this principle and for its compatibility with the Charter of the United Nations, and should define it as exceptional and supplementary in nature.

34. Cuba holds the view that universal jurisdiction must be supplementary to the actions and national jurisdiction of each State; thus, the principle may not be applied where the accused person is being investigated and prosecuted by national courts. In addition, universal jurisdiction should be applied only under exceptional circumstances in which there is no other way to prevent impunity, and it should be seen as existing alongside domestic law and the jurisprudence of national courts.

35. Cuba also noted that the application of the principle should not violate the immunity granted under international law to Heads of State and Government, diplomatic personnel and other incumbent high-ranking officials. The filing of charges and issuance of arrest warrants against such officials not only constituted a violation of the international regulations in force, but also undermined the principle of the sovereign equality and independence of States.

[3] For previous comments submitted by Cuba, see the report of the Secretary-General for 2010 (A/65/181).

36. Cuba suggested that there was need to identify the crimes that were subject to universal jurisdiction and the circumstances under which it may be invoked. It is the view of Cuba that the list of such crimes should be restricted to crimes against humanity and, as noted previously, that universal jurisdiction should be invoked only when it has been established that there is no other way to bring criminal proceedings against the perpetrators. In this regard, it was noted that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 introduced the application of universal jurisdiction to violations characterized as "grave breaches". Although the Conventions do not expressly stipulate that jurisdiction must be exercised regardless of where the crime was committed, States have the legally established power to prosecute such crimes universally.

El Salvador

37. El Salvador reiterated that, unlike other principles that determine the jurisdiction of a State, universal jurisdiction is founded exclusively on the nature of the offence, the magnitude and particular gravity of which affect the very foundation of the national and international legal order and, in particular, the recognition of and respect for dignity as a basic value.

Panama

38. Panama noted that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 obligate States parties to look for suspected perpetrators, regardless of their nationality and of the place in which the alleged crime was committed, in order to bring them before their own courts or hand them over to another State party for prosecution.

39. Panama suggested that universal jurisdiction and the recourse to international criminal courts become valid ways to ensure that war crimes do not go unpunished and to prevent impunity only in the event that other States fail to take action regarding the prosecution of alleged perpetrators. Universal jurisdiction is an exceptional basis for jurisdiction and international law establishes the implementation framework for its exercise by States.

Viet Nam

40. Viet Nam considers that universal jurisdiction is the power of a State to prosecute individuals for the most serious international crimes in the absence of any link to the place where the crimes were committed, the nationality of the alleged perpetrators, the nationality of the victims or the interest of that State.

41. Viet Nam holds the view that universal jurisdiction should be applied with much caution and within a well-established framework in order to avoid any abuse that may go against the principle of the sovereign equality of all States. Viet Nam suggests that the exercise of universal jurisdiction must be subject to the following principles and conditions:

(a) Universal jurisdiction may only be exercised over the most serious international crimes, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes;

(b) Universal jurisdiction is supplemental to other jurisdictions that have a stronger link to the crimes, such as territorial jurisdiction or nationality jurisdiction. In the event the State where the crimes occurred or the State of nationality of the alleged perpetrators or the State of nationality of the victims is able to prosecute the crimes in question, universal jurisdiction should not be exercised;

(c) A State should exercise universal jurisdiction over a crime only when the alleged perpetrator is present in its territory;

(d) Any State having custody over an alleged perpetrator, before exercising universal jurisdiction, should consult the State where the crime occurred and the State of nationality of the person concerned to determine whether either State is preparing to prosecute the alleged perpetrator. The custodial State should extradite the person concerned to either of those States for prosecution if requested. If those States are unable or unwilling to exercise their jurisdiction over the crime in question, the custodial State may proceed with its universal jurisdiction;

(e) The exercise of universal jurisdiction should take into account the principle of dual criminality, that is to say, an act subject to universal jurisdiction exercised by a State also constitutes a crime under the law of the State where the act was committed;

(f) The prosecution and trial of an alleged perpetrator on the basis of universal jurisdiction must comply with universally recognized standards of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Table 1
Specific legislation relevant to the subject, based on information submitted by Governments

Category	*Legislation*	*Country*
Piracy	Courts Act, 1993 (Act 459)	Ghana
Slave trade or traffic in slaves	Courts Act, 1993 (Act 459)	Ghana
Genocide	Courts Act, 1993 (Act 459)	Ghana
	Genocide Act, 1964	Sweden
Torture	Penal Code, title XIX ("crimes against humanity"), article 366-A	El Salvador
Crimes against international law	Swedish Criminal Code, chapter 2, section 3.6 and chapter 22, section 6 (defining a crime against international law as "a serious violation of a treaty or agreement with a foreign power or an infraction of a generally recognized principle or tenet relating to international humanitarian law concerning armed conflicts")	Sweden
Offences against State and international security	Courts Act, 1993 (Act 459) (listing offences against the security of the State, unauthorized disclosure of an official State secret, offences against the property of the State and attacks on an international communications system, canal or submarine cable as offences subject to criminal jurisdiction)	Ghana

Category	*Legislation*	*Country*
Hijacking	Courts Act, 1993 (Act 459)	Ghana
Offences against morality and exploitation	Courts Act, 1993 (Act 459) (listing traffic in women or children and traffic in obscene publication as offences subject to criminal jurisdiction)	Ghana
	Act No. 23 of 7 July 2004 (approving article 3 (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime)	Panama
Money-property-laundering	Penal Code, article 389, as amended by article 11 of Act No. 1 of 5 January 2004	Panama
Falsification or counterfeiting of an official seal, currency, instrument of credit, stamp, passport or public document of the State	Courts Act, 1993 (Act 459)	Ghana
Trafficking in narcotics/ drugs	Courts Act, 1993 (Act 459)	Ghana
	Act No. 13 of 27 July 1994	Panama

Table 2
Relevant treaties that were referred to by Governments, including treaties containing *aut dedere aut judicare* provisions

A. Universal instruments

Genocide	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948	Viet Nam[a]
International humanitarian law	Geneva Conventions of 1949	Cuba, Ghana,[b] Panama, Viet Nam
International criminal law	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 1998	Kuwait, Sweden
Torture	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984	El Salvador,[c] Sweden
Apartheid	International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, 1973	Viet Nam

Trafficking in persons	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000	Panama
Crimes against internationally protected persons, including diplomatic agents	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, 1973	Viet Nam
Enforced disappearance	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, 2006	Panama
Terrorism-related offences	Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, 1970	Viet Nam
	Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, 1971	Viet Nam
	Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, 1988	Viet Nam
	International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, 1999	Viet Nam
	ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, 2007	Viet Nam
Protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict	Second Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1999	Panama
General	Charter of the United Nations, 1945	Cuba

[a] All treaty offences attributed in this table to Viet Nam have been implemented domestically pursuant to the Vietnamese Criminal Code of 1999 (modified in 2009), article 6, paragraph 2.

[b] Geneva Conventions Act of Ghana, 2009 (Act 708).

[c] Legislative Decree No. 833 of 23 March 1994 (ratifying the Convention).

B. Bilateral instruments

Extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters	Bilateral agreements on extradition and on legal assistance in criminal matters were also mentioned	Kuwait

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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains an account of the activities undertaken by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in accordance with its mandate from July 2011 to June 2012.

During the reporting period, the Regional Centre continued its assistance to Member States, intergovernmental and civil society organizations in Africa to promote peace, security and disarmament.

In view of the devastating effects that small arms and light weapons continue to have on the socioeconomic progress and stability in the region and the challenges a number of African States face in professionalizing their defence and security forces, the work of the Regional Centre focused on efforts to curb the flow of this category of weapons and on security sector reform. The Centre provided support for the implementation of regional and subregional measures and agreements aimed at combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, such as the Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components That Can Be Used for their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly (Kinshasa Convention). In addition to continuing to provide training to defence and security force officers on small arms and light weapons control issues, the Regional Centre undertook more in-depth research on issues related to small arms and light weapons with a view to enhancing its effectiveness to better serve the States of the region and provide tailored assistance activities. The Regional Centre also

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worked in partnership with the African Union and the International Action Network on Small Arms to assist Member States in preparation for an Arms Trade Treaty.

The secretariat responsibilities for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa were transferred from the Regional Centre to the United Nations Office for Central Africa. Notwithstanding, the Regional Centre continued to provide substantive and technical assistance to the Standing Advisory Committee on disarmament matters, including for the thirty-third and thirty-fourth ministerial meetings of that Committee, which were held, respectively, in Bangui, Central African Republic, and Bujumbura, Burundi.

Within its peace and security mandate, the Regional Centre contributed to assisting defence and security forces in Africa in developing effective, inclusive and accountable security institutions through the development of strategic plans and codes of conduct and providing professional training in civic and human rights education. These areas continue to be important in promoting peace, democracy and the rule of law.

The Regional Centre also promoted greater involvement of women in defence and security forces in an effort to support the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

The Regional Centre continues to enhance its capabilities in the fields of disarmament, peace and security. Its expertise is recognized and requests for assistance from Member States, intergovernmental and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Africa have multiplied. The mobilization of financial and human resources that can ease the efforts of the Regional Centre in responding to these requests remains a major challenge.

The Centre relies solely on voluntary contributions to implement its programmes. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to those Member States and other partners that supported the Centre's operations and programmes with financial contributions and calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre to enable it to fulfil its mandate entrusted by the General Assembly.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 66/58, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the tangible achievements and impact of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa at the regional level and welcomed its contribution to continental disarmament, peace and security.

2. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and covers the activities of the Regional Centre for the period from July 2011 to June 2012. A financial statement on the status of the trust fund for the Regional Centre is contained in the annex.

II. Functioning and mandate of the Regional Centre

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa was established in 1986 in Lomé, Togo, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G. The Regional Centre functions on the basis of existing resources within the Secretariat and on voluntary contributions that Member States and other donors may offer. Currently, the post of Director, one Political Affairs Officer and two support staff, as well as some operating costs, are funded from the regular budget of the United Nations. Projects and project staff are funded through voluntary contributions.

4. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre implemented its programme of work in the following main areas: peace and security; conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons; weapons of mass destruction; information and outreach; and cooperation and partnerships with regional and subregional organizations and other entities.

III. Objectives and activities of the Regional Centre

5. The Regional Centre provides assistance, upon request, to Member States, the African Union and other relevant intergovernmental organizations in the promotion of disarmament, peace and security in Africa. It also works in partnership with academic/research institutions and CSOs in the implementation of its programmes, projects and other activities linked to disarmament, peace and security. Owing to the specific nature of security issues in Africa, the Regional Centre places emphasis on activities linked to controlling the illicit trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons and to reforming defence and security forces with the respective goals of reducing armed conflict and armed violence and of developing effective, inclusive and accountable security institutions. The Centre provides support to African Member States and intergovernmental organizations in these areas through capacity-building and training, technical assistance, research, and information-sharing.

6. In order to better respond to requests for assistance and support — the main goals of its mandate — the Regional Centre undertook a restructuring of its programme of work shifting from a geographical to a thematic focus. As a result, the Regional Centre established five thematic programmes: the peace and security

programme; the small arms and light weapons programme; the conventional arms programme; the weapons of mass destruction programme; and the host country programme.

A. Peace and security programme

7. Within the peace and security programme, the Regional Centre carried out several types of activities related to providing assistance to Member States in reforming defence and security forces and enhancing conflict resolution in response to requests from African Member States. The Regional Centre received eight assistance requests from the Governments of Comoros, Mali, Togo (2), and the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (2), the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union. The Regional Centre responded to the different requests by carrying out 23 substantive activities that included developing strategic plans and codes of conduct for defence and security forces; providing training for security forces in civic and human rights education; promoting gender awareness within security forces; enhancing conflict resolution measures; and supporting actions against terrorism in Africa.

Developing strategic plans and codes of conduct for defence and security forces

8. In December 2011, the Government of Comoros through UNDP Comoros requested the Regional Centre to undertake two activities: (a) the elaboration of guidelines for the development of a strategic plan for the national police, aimed at helping to ensure consistency among the capacities of police officers as well as the tasks they must undertake in a democratic context, and (b) the elaboration of guidelines for the development of a code of conduct for defence and security forces.

9. The guidelines for the police national strategic plan provided key ideas for the police mission statement and identified focus areas which need improvement, such as professional training, equipment, and relations with other government institutions. The Regional Centre's guidelines for the Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces included specific suggestions on mission statements for each security force as well as on clearer divisions of labour among them.

Strengthening the professional training of defence and security forces

10. In connection with the upcoming parliamentary elections in Togo in October 2012 and international efforts to build a stronger democracy in the country, UNDP Togo, through funding by the European Commission, requested the Regional Centre to provide assistance in evaluating the current state of civic and human rights education within military and police trainings centres, developing a manual on civic and human rights education for military and police training centres, and training instructors from the police forces on maintaining order and preventing armed violence during electoral periods. The Regional Centre started this project in June 2012.

Promoting gender awareness within security forces

11. The Regional Centre has also been active in supporting efforts to implement Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) in Togo and to promote gender awareness in regional forums discussing security sector reform. Early in

2011, the Regional Centre together with Togolese Government officials and Togolese civil society members, reinitiated efforts to develop a National Action Plan on the role of Togolese women in promoting security and peaceful conflict resolution. With significant support from the Regional Centre, the national plan was validated by Togolese Government officials and civil society members in October 2011.

12. The plan calls for greater inclusion of women in peacekeeping missions and in decision-making related to government policy as well as promoting the competencies of women in negotiating and resolving conflict. The Regional Centre also initiated an awareness campaign to promote Togo's National Action Plan and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). As a result of all these activities, the number of women employed within the defence and security forces of Togo, including in senior-level positions, increased. Togo has also sent more women to participate in peacekeeping missions abroad.

Enhancing conflict resolution efforts

13. In response to insecurity and armed clashes in the north of Mali in early 2012, and at the request of the Government of Mali and with the support of UNDP Mali and the Government of Denmark, the Regional Centre undertook a mission to Bamako, from 3 to 6 February 2012 to assess the problems of weapons proliferation, their links to insecurity and to identify potential solutions. As a result of the mission, the Regional Centre and UNDP designed a project to take stock of the various peace initiatives and confidence-building measures that have worked in Mali in the past and made proposals for programme activities in the areas of peace, security and practical disarmament.

14. Concerning the situation in the Sahel, in March 2012, the Regional Centre provided expertise by sharing information and lessons learned related to past efforts to establish peace and reconciliation in the region at the African Union Experts Meeting on the Situation in the Sahel Region. The meeting sought to agree on priority actions on security and diplomacy, humanitarian and socioeconomic aspects, and long-term development, as well as to formulate the outline of a comprehensive plan of action.

Supporting action against terrorism

15. Following the Regional Centre's participation in an experts meeting held in May 2011 on the ECOWAS counter-terrorism strategy, the Regional Centre has been more engaged in activities to support agreements and training for law enforcement officers related to combating terrorism in West and Central Africa. In mid-May 2012, in Dakar, the Regional Centre provided a training session on cross-border management to senior law enforcement officers from ECOWAS member States as a part of a course on counter-terrorism.

16. During the thirty-third ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held in Bangui in December 2011, the Regional Centre assisted Central African States in drafting the road map for the Fight against Terrorism and Non-Proliferation of Weapons in Central Africa. The road map sets as its main goal the reinforcement of cooperation among the military, police, and customs in Central African countries. In particular, the road map calls on national Governments to strengthen land borders and intelligence services, safeguard and enhance financial oversight in connection with

economic activities, monitor the origin and movement of funds and better control the possession and use of weapons, among other items.

B. Small arms and light weapons programme

17. Within its small arms and light weapons programme, the Regional Centre engaged in activities aimed at assisting African Member States in implementing international and regional agreements to combat the illicit trade and use of small arms and light weapons. These activities included: strengthening agreements and plans of action; building the capacities of Governments and civil society on small arms control; and discovering specific small arms and light weapons control challenges through baseline assessments.

Strengthening agreements and plans of action

18. The Regional Centre assisted in the development of several agreements and plans of action on small arms and light weapons at the regional, subregional, and national levels. As part of the African Union Regional Economic Communities Steering Committee on Small Arms, the Regional Centre continued to assist African Union efforts in developing a common strategy for the control of small arms and light weapons and a related action plan by providing substantive advice on the documents produced by the Steering Committee and helping to organize meetings to debate these issues. At a meeting held in September 2011 in Lomé, African Union governmental experts from African member States agreed to a draft strategy and action plan. The objective of these two documents is to strengthen the capacity of African Union member States, regional economic communities, regional bodies, and the African Union to implement measures against the illicit proliferation, circulation, and trafficking of small arms and light weapons as well as to promote cooperation, coordination, and exchange of information on the issue. It is expected that African States will agree to the strategy and action plan at an African Union summit meeting in July.

19. With the aim of harmonizing approaches to small arms and light weapons marking within West Africa, the Regional Centre supported ECOWAS efforts in successfully adopting a new agreement on marking small arms and light weapons in early December 2011. The Regional Centre provided technical advice on key aspects as well as suggestions for the text of the agreement. The agreement, New Standards and Unique Codes to the Marking and Tracing of Small Arms and Light Weapons for ECOWAS member States, sets slightly higher standards than other existing agreements in Africa by requiring ECOWAS member States to put a mark on each small arm and light weapon, identifying the entity responsible for the weapon such as police, military or civilian. Following the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the agreement also requires States to ensure that classical and security markings are placed on each new small arm and light weapon import and new "industrially produced" small arms and light weapons. It also tackles marking requirements for craft produced firearms. So far, the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, and Togo have started applying these new standards in marking their weapons. It is expected that marking would not just ease the tracing of small arms and light weapons but would contribute to preventing the diversion from governmental arsenals.

20. The Regional Centre has been actively engaged in helping the Togolese National Commission on small arms to elaborate and adopt a National Plan of Action on small arms and light weapons for the period 2012-2016. In late-December 2011, the Regional Centre supported the National Commission in finalizing and validating the National Action Plan by organizing a workshop to review the draft plan and providing substantive input regarding small arms and light weapons definitions, craft production, and subregional efforts to tackle the illicit trade and use of small arms and light weapons. At the end of the workshop, the participants agreed to a final plan structured around 10 priority areas including capacity-building for key actors in small arms and light weapons and strengthening of policy, legislative, and regulatory measures. Among other items, the National Action Plan points out that Togo needs to update its procedures and controls related to recordkeeping, storage, exports, imports, and transit. The Regional Centre supports the National Commission in its efforts to address these priority items.

Building the capacities of government and civil society on small arms control

21. In response to requests from African Member States for training on specific aspects of small arms and light weapons control, the Regional Centre has also enhanced and developed training modules for defence and security forces, national commissions on small arms, and civil society. From August 2011 to February 2012, the Regional Centre received specific requests from Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Central African Republic on a full range of small arms and light weapons issues, such as weapons collection, identifying and tracing small arms and light weapons and related ammunition, transfer controls, stockpile management, security and safety, development of national action plans, formulation of national strategies and research on small arms and light weapons issues. While the Regional Centre was able to start work on training courses for Côte d'Ivoire and Mozambique, additional funds are needed to meet requests made by the Government of the Central African Republic.

22. In connection with the efforts of the Mozambican Police Academy to reform its overall curriculum and training, UNDP Mozambique and the Mozambican National Commission on small arms requested the Regional Centre to develop several training modules covering small arms and light weapons control. Based in part on training modules developed by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament, and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Centre in Africa developed the following modules: overview of small arms and light weapons issues and concerns in Africa, including links with development and gender; identifying small arms and light weapons, related ammunition, and explosives; and normative controls on small arms and light weapons, including transfers, marking, recordkeeping, criminal offences, seizures, and civilian possession. Once incorporated into the professional training of the Police Academy, this information will assist police officers in properly identifying firearms for registration, tracing and criminal investigation. It would also help them to implement international, regional, and national instruments that combat the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

23. Early in 2012, the Regional Centre received a request from the National Commission on Small Arms in Côte d'Ivoire to provide training on several small arms and light weapons control issues for the commission, defence and security forces, and civil society. Starting in June 2012, the Regional Centre with support

from the Governments of Australia, Germany and Japan began to develop training modules on: human and community security; identifying small arms and light weapons, related ammunition, and explosives; normative controls on small arms and light weapons, including related to exports, imports, transit, borders, brokering, marking, recordkeeping, criminal offences, seizures, civilian possession, and craft production; practical disarmament measures; stockpile management and destruction; the role of civil society in practical disarmament and research techniques on small arms and light weapons. The training on stockpile management includes a guided self-assessment of several defence arms and ammunition depots.

Discovering specific small arms and light weapons control challenges through baseline assessments

24. There continue to be significant gaps in information on the nature and scope of small arms and light weapons trafficking in Africa. While information on these issues has increased in the last 10 years thanks to international and regional agreements and control measures on small arms and light weapons, current and comprehensive data on items such as homicides with firearms, illegal arms flows, and national laws and policies aimed at the control of small arms and light weapons are sparse. In order to develop more targeted and effective projects to reduce the illicit trade and misuse of small arms and light weapons, the Regional Centre, at the request of African Member States and in partnership with CSOs, started several projects during this reporting period to attempt to address these gaps.

25. Within this context, the Regional Centre, in cooperation with the International Action Network on Small Arms and UNDP Republic of the Congo and with the support of the Government of Australia, began a comparative study in June 2012 to assess the laws, regulations and administrative procedures related to the export, import, brokering, and transit of small arms and light weapons in the Republic of the Congo with international and regional standards. This assessment will include a review of intragovernmental coordination and national capacities for the control of small arms and light weapons. The study will also examine safety and security standards at several arms depots in the Republic of the Congo. The baseline study is expected to lay the foundation for operational remedial actions for arms control in the country.

26. Similar to projects it had completed in the past for ECOWAS, the Regional Centre was requested by the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in March 2011 to provide support in implementing the Kinshasa Convention on the control of small arms and light weapons, which the Centre helped develop in 2010. In May 2012, the Regional Centre started to work on the project with these objectives: to develop a guide to harmonize national laws of the Central African State for the control of small arms and light weapons; to create a training curriculum and a training manual for defence and security forces and national commissions on small arms and light weapons control; and to translate the "Practical Guide of the Kinshasa Convention for Parliamentarians" into English and Spanish.

27. In cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung organization, the Regional Centre also started a project in October 2011 to assess the nature and scope of small arms and light weapons trafficking within and among Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria. The objectives of the study are fivefold: to determine the source of

weapons and types of traffickers; to identify trafficking routes and an estimate of the flow of weapons; to discover illegal caches of arms; to assess the local production of arms; and to make recommendations. In order to help build the capacities of local researchers on small arms and light weapons control issues, the Regional Centre and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung hired four consultants to act as the lead researchers. The study has not yet been completed and research regarding the flow of weapons through and within these countries, as well as details on illegal caches of arms, is ongoing. Once the research is completed by July 2012, the Regional Centre and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung will develop projects aimed at addressing some of the major problems related to the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

C. Conventional arms programme

28. As the United Nations is set to begin negotiations in July 2012 on an Arms Trade Treaty to better regulate the international trade in conventional arms, the Regional Centre conventional arms programme has engaged in various relevant activities in support of this process. The focus of these activities has been on assisting African Member States in developing a common position on the treaty, increasing the knowledge of African Member States on aspects of the proposed treaty, and providing opportunities for debate and discussion on the related issues.

Building common positions on the Arms Trade Treaty

29. Following the adoption of common positions on the Arms Trade Treaty in West Africa in December 2010, and Central African States in March 2011, the Regional Centre provided technical support to the African Union in helping to create a draft African Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty. In particular, the Regional Centre drafted a working document on the subject and helped organize a meeting of African governmental experts in September 2011 in Lomé, to assist countries to agree on a common position. The meeting resulted in an agreed draft Common Position on the Arms Trade Treaty, which is expected to be further discussed among several African Union organs.

Enhancing knowledge and debate on the Arms Trade Treaty in Africa

30. The Regional Centre also supported efforts of African States to further discuss the Arms Trade Treaty in advance of the July negotiations in New York. In partnership with the African Union and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), and with financial support from the Government of Australia, the Regional Centre co-organized a two-day consultation in Addis Ababa, from 21 to 22 May for all African States, to discuss the elements of the future treaty. The meeting brought together 49 States Members of the United Nations from Africa and six African CSOs. The meeting contributed significantly to the substantive knowledge of African States on key aspects of the treaty. It provided a forum for African States to develop coordination strategies for the upcoming negotiations in July. During the meeting, the Regional Centre gave a presentation on the main challenges that African States face in implementing similar arms control agreements.

31. The Regional Centre also participated in several meetings organized by partner institutions to support the Arms Trade Treaty process. In March 2012, the Regional Centre attended a meeting in Nairobi, organized by the United Nations Institute for

Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) for East and Central African States, entitled, Supporting the Arms Trade Treaty Negotiations through Regional Discussions and Expertise Sharing. At the meeting, the Centre gave two presentations on aspects related to the Arms Trade Treaty process and United Nations arms transparency mechanisms. In early-May 2012 in Kigali, Rwanda, at a meeting on the Arms Trade Treaty organized by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), the Regional Centre also gave a presentation on pertinent issues discussed at the preparatory committee meetings on the Arms Trade Treaty in New York. Lastly, the Centre provided support to the Institute for Security Studies (ISS — South Africa) in their development of an ISS "toolkit" on the Arms Trade Treaty aimed at providing quick resource guides on this issue.

D. Weapons of mass destruction programme

32. The Regional Centre was active in discussions with relevant stakeholders on building the capacities of African States to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In early-March 2012, the Regional Centre gave a presentation on strengthening capacity at a conference, Africa and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime organized by Wilton Park (United Kingdom) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS — South Africa). The Regional Centre has also been active in reviewing ways to support Member States in their efforts to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) related to the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery. In consultation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and UNODA Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch in New York, the Regional Centre continues to explore ways and means to strengthen the capacities of African Member States in their implementation of the resolution. Emphasis is placed on law enforcement, border controls and the reporting process, all of which constitute some of the major areas of assistance requested by African States.

E. Information and outreach

33. In an effort to increase its visibility and improve its ability to inform and interact with its clients and the public, the Regional Centre developed a new communications strategy, which included the redesign of its website (www.unrec.org) and its bimonthly electronic newsletter *UNREC Focus*. The website provides, in English and French, more interactive features and information on Regional Centre expertise and current projects. Meanwhile, *UNREC Focus*, with more than 1,000 subscribers, shares information on the Regional Centre's achievements as well as on other developments related to peace, security and disarmament in Africa and at the United Nations.

34. The Regional Centre continued to promote disarmament events in Africa. As part of the disarmament week in October 2011, it held two events in Lomé, a panel discussion on arms control efforts in Africa for the local public and the media, and a showing and discussion on Togolese artwork on disarmament themes where several artists presented their disarmament-themed paintings, songs and dances. Starting in March 2012, the Regional Centre was also active in promoting the "Art for Peace" contest launched in New York by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to encourage young people to create artwork related to peace and disarmament issues.

F. Cooperation and partnerships with Member States, regional and subregional organizations and other entities

35. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre continued to work very closely with African Member States and maintained communication through regular visits and correspondence on specific issues of technical assistance. The Director of the Regional Centre issued letters of information to African Governments on the Regional Centre's activities, projects and resource needs. To facilitate cooperation and enhance delivery of services to Member States, the Regional Centre requested African Governments to appoint, within their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, a Regional Centre Focal Point. This enhanced communication on practical matters between the Regional Centre and the Governments which have designated such officers.

36. During the reporting period, 23 substantive activities and projects were organized with intergovernmental and civil society organizations and other entities, including United Nations agencies and field offices. In addition to the permanent observer status which the Regional Centre enjoys with the African Union and the existing memorandums of understanding it has with many institutions, during this reporting period, new cooperation agreements, through exchange of letters, funding agreements and memorandums of understanding, were initiated with Ethiopia, Australia, Germany (through the German Agency for International Cooperation — GIZ), Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, the African Union Commission, the Institute of Security Studies (ISS), UNDP Mozambique, UNDP Comoros, UNDP Togo and UNDP Mali. They have served as frameworks for many of the activities that have been carried out during this reporting period as detailed in the preceding paragraphs.

37. Cooperation has not been limited just to joint programmes and project execution but has also extended to participation in the events of partner institutions. Invited by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in West Africa, the Regional Centre participated in the ninth meeting of the United Nations Heads of Agencies in West Africa in Dakar, in October 2011. The meeting examined the problem of instability and insecurity in the border region of the Mano River Union (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) and discussed methods to mobilize relevant stakeholders for the purposes of creating a strategy and action plan and discuss the impact of the Libyan crisis on the situation in the Sahel region. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in West Africa also visited the Centre's headquarters in January 2012 to discuss ways to strengthen the Centre's partnership with the United Nations Office for West Africa.

38. As a member of the Steering Committee of the small arms and light weapons training project of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, the Regional Centre participates regularly in the meetings of the Committee. In addition, working visits to exchange information and explore joint programmes on specific disarmament and security sector reform issues took place during the course of this reporting period. In March 2012, the Regional Centre participated in the eighth steering committee meeting of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, where its members exchanged views on emerging issues related to small arms and light weapons in West Africa, reviewed the 2012 regional small arms and light weapons training programme, and considered the operational proposals made for approval and implementation of the training courses.

39. The Regional Centre also continued to increase its partnership with the Institute of Security Studies (ISS). In addition to its assistance to the ISS project on developing a toolkit for African Member States on the Arms Trade Treaty, the Regional Centre participated in a conference, Implementing Sanctions: Prospects and Problems, organized by ISS and the International Institute on Strategic Studies, held in Nairobi, in May 2012. Participants at the meeting discussed challenges in implementing sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as methods of financing and transporting arms in breach of sanctions regimes.

IV. Operational situation of the Centre

A. Financial situation

40. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/151 G, the Regional Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions. In 2011, the Regional Centre received voluntary contributions from the Government of Togo and UNDP Mozambique in the amount of $78,764. During the first half of 2012, the Trust Fund also received voluntary contributions from the Government of Australia in the amount of $321,141. Information on the status of the trust fund for the Centre from July 2011 to June 2012 is contained in the annex to the present report.

41. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of those countries for their contributions and to the Government of Finland for supporting the cost of a United Nations Volunteer at the Regional Centre. The Secretary-General would also like to thank the Governments of Australia, Denmark, Germany and Japan, UNDP Offices in Comoros, Togo, Mozambique and the Republic of Congo, the National Commission on Small Arms of Côte d'Ivoire, the International Action Network on Small Arms, and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung for their collaboration and support of the Regional Centre's activities during this reporting period.

B. Staffing

42. During the reporting period, the staff supported by the regular budget remains unchanged, namely, a Director (P-5), one Political Affairs Officer (P-3), one Senior Administrative and Financial Assistant (G-7), and one Information Assistant (G-6).

43. In addition to the staff indicated above, the Regional Centre, with funding from Finland, recruited one international United Nations Volunteer as Security Sector Reform Expert, who assumed duties in May 2012. The Regional Centre also has nine staff members funded through extrabudgetary resources. The Regional Centre benefited from the contributions of interns, most of whom undertook research and project support activities.

V. Conclusion

44. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre successfully supported disarmament, security and peace initiatives with Member States and collaborated with new partners. The Regional Centre also strengthened its role at the continental

level, creating networks and partnerships at both the pan-African and the African subregional levels.

45. Furthermore, the Regional Centre benefited from the synergies it has established with United Nations agencies and programmes and the partnerships it has maintained with various NGOs and other institutions. This approach has helped in developing, over the years, an extended network of expertise in the field of disarmament, peace and security. The ability of the Regional Centre to coordinate with other institutions, and by drawing from lessons learned and best practices of the other Regional Centres in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia and the Pacific, have proven to be salutary to its institutional growth. These trends will continue as part of the new approach of the Regional Centre to maximize the utilization of resources and expertise through cooperation and cross-fertilization of experiences.

46. Requests from Member States and intergovernmental organizations in Africa for technical cooperation, assistance, and sharing of expertise are increasing, but need to be matched by adequate and sustainable funding. The Regional Centre has developed a fundraising strategy and a portfolio of new project proposals to ensure the financial sustainability of its activities. The project proposals are based on the requests received for assistance and reflect the realities on the ground: addressing the challenges of implementing legal disarmament instruments and norms; building the capacities of law enforcement officers; strengthening civil society; harmonizing legislation and building the capacities of the legislative bodies; reducing armed violence and collecting weapons in fragile societies. The Secretary-General wishes to encourage Member States and other donors to make financial contributions towards the continued operation of the Regional Centre.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for 2011

(In United States dollars)

Reserves and fund balance, as at 1 January 2011	219 877
Income	
Voluntary contributions	37 633
Funds received under inter-organization arrangements	41 131
Interest income	5 938
Other income	25 008[a]
Total income	**109 710**
Expenditures	156 068
Programme support costs	20 549
Total expenditures	**178 617**
Reserves and fund balances, as at 31 December 2011	**150 970**[b]

Note: This information is based on the statement of income and expenditures for 2011. During the period, contributions totalling $78,764 were received from the Government of Togo ($37,633) and UNDP Mozambique ($41,131).

During the period 1 January to 23 May 2012, an additional contribution totalling $321,141 was received from the Government of Australia.

[a] The total of $25,008 includes the refund of prior-period expenditures.

[b] Consists of reserves and fund balance, as at 1 January 2011, plus income received during 2011, less expenditure incurred during the year.